

Joy Lutheran Church

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

Office: 907.694.9601

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October 18, 2020



20th Sunday After Pentecost

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.

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Introduction

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Welcome/Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

C: **and also with you.**

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 858



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing,
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you,
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,

³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.

⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.

⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

Psalm

Psalm 96:1-9

- ¹Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ²**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- ³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
- ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**
- ⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Sermon

Pastor Karen Sonray



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Reception of New Members

L: Dear friends, we rejoice that these persons - Debbie, Ty and Sophiz Quiroz - have come to us and desire to transfer their membership and make public affirmation of their Faith they received in their Baptism and join Joy Lutheran Church.

Now therefore I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize:

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

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)

Prayers

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.

Benediction

Sending Hymn

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW 686 (v. 1-3)



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

L: Go in Peace - Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Flowers are given
by Wayne & Judy Rush
in celebration of the birth of their
great granddaughter, Ella Holden



Worship Assistants for Today			
Pianist: Nancy Wojnowski	Preacher: Pastor Karen Sonray	Reader: Sue Weimer	Song Leaders: Mona Mitton
Preview Of Upcoming Week			
Sun., Oct. 18	9:30 AM 10:15 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Sunday School Confirmation Class	
Mon., Oct. 19	- All Day - 6:30 PM 6:30 PM	Pastor Karen Office Day Joy of Reading Book Club - Brause Fellowship Hall Narcotics Anonymous	
Tues., Oct. 20	6:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	
Wed., Oct. 21	6:30 PM	Narcotics Anonymous	
Thurs. Oct. 22	- All Day - 2:15 PM 6:30 PM	Pastor Karen Office Day Love INC. Thanksgiving Blessing Planning Committee Alcoholics Anonymous	
Fri., Oct. 23	6:30 PM	Narcotics Anonymous	
Sat., Oct. 24			
Next Sunday:			
Sun., Oct. 25	9:30 AM 9:50 AM 10:20 AM 10:20 AM	Worship Congregational Meeting Sunday School Confirmation Class	

Thanksgiving Blessing 2020

Thanksgiving Blessing is going to be different this year. It will be a drive-up event in the front parking lot. Plans are still being developed with Love INC and the Food Bank of Alaska on how to accomplish that. Stay tuned!

Joy Lutheran Church is being asked to collect up to **300 cans of green peas, green beans or a financial contribution.**

NOTICE: Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 25th **9:50 AM IN-PERSON** (Worship will be abbreviated!)
4:00 PM ZOOM (meeting invitation will be posted)

Agenda: Adoption of Ministry Site Profile
Council's Recommendation for Staffing

NO Confirmation Class Today

Please join us next week after the congregational meeting for Confirmation Class. This class is for young people in 7th grade or higher who have not been confirmed. It's not too late!

Sunday School Today at 10:15AM!

Sunday School is Cool



Preschool - K

Nursery

Rachel Christman (or Debbie Q.)

1st - 4th Grade

Brause Hall

Nicole Simasko

5th - 6th Grade

Brause Hall

Pastor Karen

JCDC is Hiring!

Joy Child Development Center is hiring.

- **Teacher:** Toddler room teacher. Experience preferred but not necessary.
- **Cook:** Experience preferred, but we will train.



Background checks are required. Please contact Robin O'Mara at 694-2755 if interested. Must be 18y.o.

Reception of New Members

Debbie Quiroz and her daughters Ty (13) & Sophia (10) are joining Joy Lutheran Church today, transferring from Lutheran Church of Hope. Debbie was born & raised in Alaska and has been teaching at Ravenwood for the last 20 years. When Debbie first visited Joy Lutheran, she noted the children's bags on the tree, as well as the small table at the back of the church with toys. She valued the child-friendly message. She checked Joy's website and liked the congregation's inclusive "Welcome to worship." Debbie says those words are accurate as she and her daughters experience the kind, open-minded people they have met at Joy. Debbie is helping in Sunday School as one of the teachers in our youngest group. **Welcome Debbie, Ty and Sophia!**

LIST OF MITIGATION RULES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

1. Wear your face mask. We have extras if you need one. Pastor will be more than 10 ft away and remove her mask while presiding.
2. Keep 3 empty chairs (i.e. 6 ft.) between you and anyone not in your household
3. Capacity limit 50 – 60 (as of September 2020).
4. No use of hymnals.
5. Holy Communion will be offered first Sunday of the month using good protocol.***
6. Keep your mask on during singing and do not sing boisterously. Studies show that singing projects more air than coughing.
7. We will limit the worship service to approximately 35 minutes. The longer people share the same air space the greater the chance of spreading germs.
8. No contact during the passing of the peace. Stay at 6 ft. distances - sharing a peace sign, wave, hand over heart, or clasped hands and bow.
9. Offering plates are in stationary positions near entryways to avoid the passing of the plate. Thank you for your offerings!
10. We ask you to FILL OUT THE SHEET OF PAPER inside your bulletin and place it in the offering plate.
11. As you are dismissed, exit in a staggered rhythm to decrease proximity to one another.
12. If you use a bathroom, please clean all touchable surfaces before and after usage. Spray disinfectant and paper towels are available in each bathroom.
13. If you would like to visit after worship, we ask you maintain 6 ft. distances.
14. All coffee and food is suspended at this time. Exception is we will offer prepackaged food-to-go for Sunday School students.

***COMMUNION PROTOCOL

- *Wafers (ALL are gluten-free). Individual wine/juice cups.*
- *Wafers and Cups separated so you can pick one up without touching any others*
- *People will come forward in staggered intervals, take their communion, return to seat*
- *We will all partake at the same time after everyone has returned to their seats.*

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