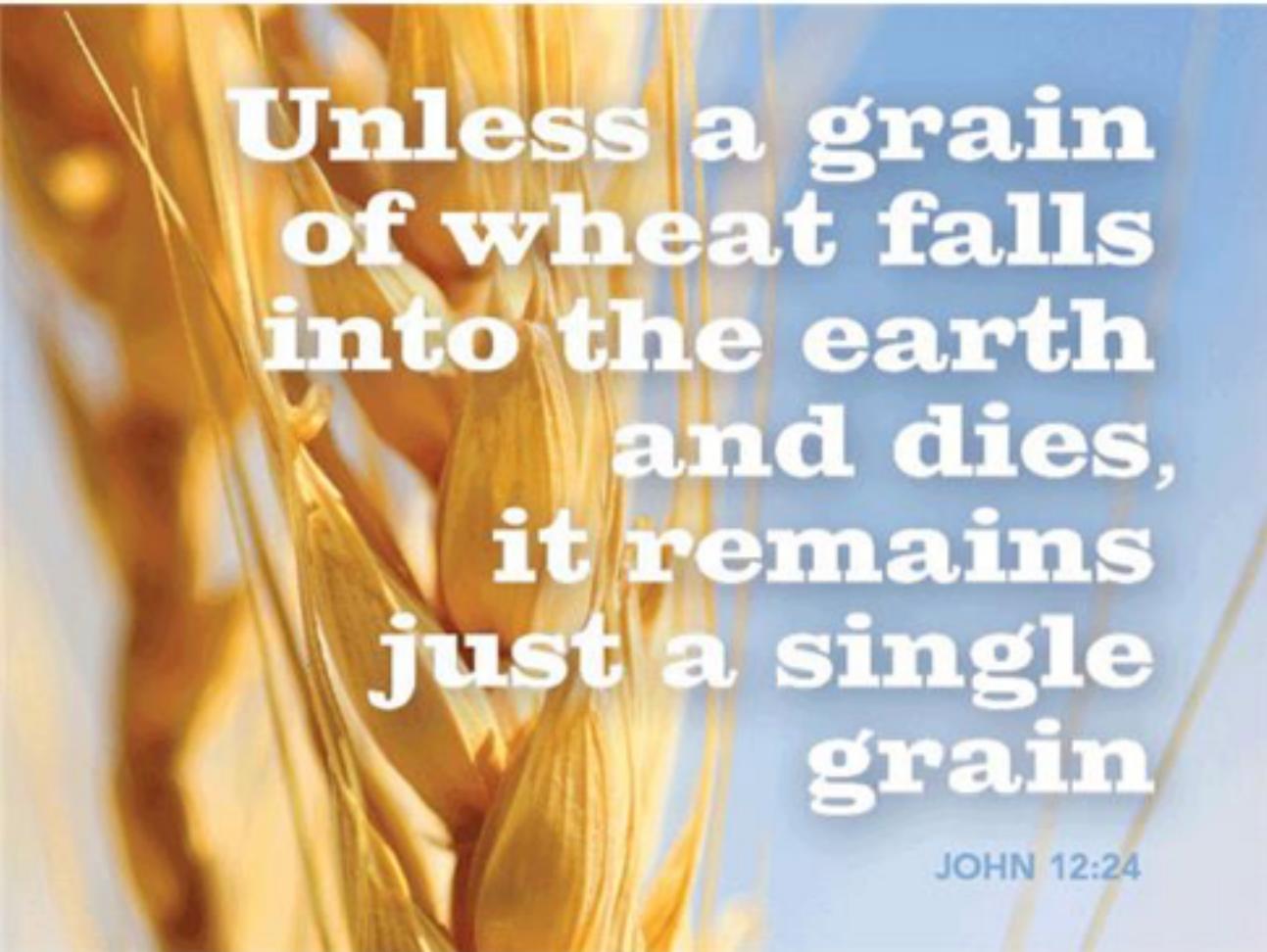


Joy Lutheran Church

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

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

March 21, 2021



**Unless a grain
of wheat falls
into the earth
and dies,
it remains
just a single
grain**

JOHN 12:24

Fifth 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.

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Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 21, 2021, 9:30 a.m. - Drewes

Introduction

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

L: Holy One, dwell within us.

C: **Whisper in our ears;**

L: Glimmer in our vision;

C: **Write upon our hearts.**

L: We wait

C: **with open ears, open eyes, open hearts.**

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)*

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. O God,

C: **with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm

Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

**10Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**11Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**12Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Gospel Reading

John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Sermon

Pastor Karen Sonray

Hymn of the Day***Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil***

ELW 512

(sing 2 times through)

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.

PrayersLord'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.**

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)

Benediction

Closing Hymn

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by him,
3 Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
think - ing that he would never wake again,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life again,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

love is come a - gain like wheat a - rising green.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Assistants for Today

Pianist:	Readers:	Acolyte:	Song Leader:
Nancy Wojnowski	Corrine Finnie	Hazel Simasko	Mona Mitton