

# *Joy in Christ*

*Lutheran Church*



*110 Balboa Rd.  
Hot Springs Village, Ar  
501-915-9569  
joyinchristHSV.org*

Lent 3

March 22-23, 2025

Rev. Julie Wesley, presiding

*The assembly rises in body or in spirit and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so**

**that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The assembly turns to face the front as the gathering hymn is sung.*

**GATHERING SONG *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* (ELW 588)**

## **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

## **KYRIE (ELW p. 138)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:7-8**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 86**

<sup>1</sup> Bow down your ear, O LORD, and answer me,  
for I am poor and in misery.

<sup>2</sup> **Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful;  
save your servant who trusts in you.**

<sup>3</sup> Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God;  
I call upon you all the day long.

<sup>4</sup> **Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

<sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
and abundant in mercy toward all who call upon you.

<sup>6</sup> **Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer,  
and attend to the voice of my supplications.**

<sup>7</sup> In the time of my trouble I will call upon you,  
for you will answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord,  
nor anything like your works.**

<sup>9</sup> All the nations you have made will come and worship  
you, O Lord,  
and glorify your name.

<sup>10</sup> **For you are great; you do wondrous things;  
and you alone are God.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your  
truth;

give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup> **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,**

**and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup> For great is your love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

<sup>14</sup> **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a  
band of violent people seeks my life;  
they have not set you before their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup> But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

<sup>16</sup> **Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the  
child of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup> Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate  
me may see it and be put to shame;  
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:29-5:2**

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>29</sup> Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is  
good for building up, as there is need, so that your words  
may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the  
Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal  
for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Put away from you all  
bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander,  
together with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another,  
tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has  
forgiven you. 5 <sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved  
children, <sup>2</sup> and walk in love, as Christ loved us<sup>[c]</sup> and gave  
himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly rises in body or in spirit.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

**Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and abounding in steadfast love.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 6:35-36**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup> Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*The assembly rises in body or in spirit.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* (ELW 707)**

**CREED (ELW p. 104)**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin  
Mary**

**and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of  
life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\***

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
church.**



**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need, trusting in God to speak to us.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions.

**Speak Lord, for your servants are listening.**

We pray for the earth, which provides abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet, our shared home.

**Speak Lord, for your servants are listening.**

We pray for the nations called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Lead us in being compassionate and caring to all people.

**Speak Lord, for your servants are listening.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your tender love especially Mary, Carolyn, Noel, Phyllis, Bobbie, Dick, Sally,

Bruce, Ginny, Lance, Gail, Pope Francis, and all those we now name aloud or in our hearts.

Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild.

**Speak Lord, for your servants are listening.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless all the ministries of this congregation that address the needs of our neighbors.

**Speak Lord, for your servants are listening.**

For what else shall we pray?

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own.

**Speak Lord, for your servants are listening.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## **MINISTRY MINUTE**

*An offering is collected for the ministry and mission of the church. We do God's work in the world together.*

*During the collection, **ELW 502: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"** will be sung by our choir. You are welcome to join the singing.*

*The assembly rises in body or in spirit to sing the offertory hymn as the offering gifts are presented.*

### **OFFERTORY HYMN *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (Hillert) (ELW 186)**

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

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

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

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 (ELW p. 144)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of pow'r and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*The assembly is seated.*

### **COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

## **COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to receive communion. Please alert an usher if you desire communion in your seat. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. The inside ring of cups is filled with non-alcoholic white grape juice.*

### **COMMUNION HYMN *As the Grains of Wheat* (ELW 465)**

## **POST-COMMUNION PROCLAMATION**

*Once all have communed, the assembly rises in body or spirit.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**Amen.**

## **SONG AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 135)**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



## **BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* (ELW 802)**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### Announcements: Saturday & Sunday, March 22-23, 2025

- Happy Birthday to: Barbara Keller, Jim Degner, Mary Kilker & Karen Sterzik
- Lenten worship and soup luncheon, Wednesday, 11 am
- Bread bakers wanted, see Dorothy Fager
- Shoe Box Scramble, Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>
- Trip to Branson in May, see Bertie Monson or Sandy Knoke
- Please submit all announcements by 10 am Wednesday
- PoP pantry needs for March 15oz. fruit (peaches, pears etc.)
- Please continue to write checks out to **Community of Joy** until the legal process of changing the name is complete. We will keep you updated.

## Coming up this week

3/24	Monday	8:30 am Focus 12:30 pm Mahjong
3/25	Tuesday	8:30 am Men's Breakfast 3:30 pm Revelation Bible Study
3/26	Wednesday	10:00 Prayers of the People 11:00 am Worship Service/Soup Lunch 1:00 pm Stephen Ministry
3/27	Thursday	10:00 am BibleProject 1:00 pm E-Team
3/28	Friday	10:00 am Focus
3/29	Saturday	4:30 pm Hospitality 5:00 Worship/Pastor Julie Wesley
3/30	Sunday	8:30 am Hospitality 9:00 am Worship/Pastor Julie Wesley

Please hold the following people in your prayers this week:

**Members:** Mary Cordes, Carolyn Daniels, Noel Desbiens, Phyllis Ekstrand, Sue Fisher, Bobbie Gibbons, Dick Gunderson, Sally Johnson, Bruce Mielke, Lance Miller, Ginny Peterson, Gail Taylor.

**Family/Friends:** Ginger Akin, Willis & Karis Alderson, David and Kay Alley, Suzanne Bratcher, Brenn Carter, Paul Cismoski, Mary Cloud, Patty Divine, Dennis Eigenfeld, Jean Fisher, Dorothy Fuchs, William Green, Chris Jensen, Judy L., Doug Larimore, Maverick Monroe, Piper Monroe, Jordon Moore, Jim Olson, Tim Oster, Jim Patton, Marc Peterson,

Linda Rimer, Jeannie Schmidt, Linda Skaggs, Danny Snyder, Doug Strohmer, Donna Urbinati, Kelly Williams, Bill Zerfas.

**Special thanks to the volunteers who served in worship this weekend:** Doris Harder, Norm & Sandy Knoke, Don & Ina Gohr, Steve Blankenship, Eileen Miller, John Keller, Susan Jamison, Karen Sterzik, Mary Orman.

Thanks to the Worship & Music committee for providing this weekend's refreshments.

**Volunteers scheduled to serve in worship next weekend:** Lance & Eileen Miller, Sharon Leonard, Carla Olson, Susan Jamison, Tom & Lynda Grasse, Delores Reynolds, Marcia Underwood, Karen Sterzik

**Readings for next weekend**  
1 Kings 19:4-9; Psalm 145; Philippians 4:4-7;  
John 20: 24-28.

**Pastor Julie Wesley 504-343-1294**  
**Council President – Jerry Fager 210-885-2725**  
[www.joyinchristhsv.org](http://www.joyinchristhsv.org)  
Office Email: [office@joyinchristhsv.org](mailto:office@joyinchristhsv.org)