

People of Hope Choose Joy



*We had to celebrate and rejoice,
because this brother of yours
was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and has been found.*

~ Luke 15:32

***“Joy is the little light that shines in the darkness of sorrow and loss.
Joy is the steadfast commitment of refusing to live in the darkness
because true joy doesn’t depend on all being made well.
It depends on knowing where joy comes from. We can choose to live in joy now. ...
We are called to be people of hope,
people who put our faith in the promise of God that all is being made new.
We are called to be people who recognize and point out the light
that is ever-present in the world. ...
We are called to be people who choose joy.”***

Words are quoted from Pastor Ryan’s “Choose Joy” Sermon on March 7, 2022 at Joy Lutheran Church, Parker, Colorado (joylc.org).
Gospel Lesson: Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which
surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~ Philippians 4:4-7

Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now,
you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy. ~ I Peter 1:8

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. ~ Psalm 146:5

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ~ Romans 15:13

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy. ~ Psalm 16:11

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ~ Hebrews 11:1

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it. ~ John 1:4-5

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. ~ Psalm 32:11