Ray Of Hope

"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."

(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Thirty-eighth year of Ministry.

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor, make disciples of every person everywhere.

(Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

This is the time we need to shine."

"We are standing in Faith and Expecting Victory."

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B, Appointed Pastor

A very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (NABRE – 2011)

Guests are invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as you feel comfortable. We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for a time of refreshments and sharing.

April 1, 2021 – Holy Thursday Women's History 4th Sunday.

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth century monk and theologian, described it as

"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

Gospel Reading: Mark Chapter 14:1-52

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bells 1st ring. Please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. in Elmira, NY was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings are in honor of the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We always ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.

** We will welcome the Facebook Live guests before the second bells are rung.**

Bells 2nd ring to announce the start of the worship event.

#

WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND TO GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Pastor: We begin in the name of God, Christ Our Saviour, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Pastor: Grace, peace, and fellowship be with you from God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 2 Peter 1:2-4)

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: (**introduction of the theme of the day*) We are going to have a Liturgy like none other that I recall at Ray Of Hope Church.

Tonight we are going to be guided by the Gospel of Mark Chapter 14. Our meditation will include reading, prayer, Holy Communion, meditation, and finally the Rite of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastor: We begin now to worship God in the beauty of holiness, in spirit, and in truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together we give God thanks and praise.

Song: At That First Eucharist G&P #511



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

Pastor: Please rise as you are able to give thanks and praise to God for the giving of the Only Begotten Son of God, Christ Jesus Our Lord for the salvation of the Human Race by praying the Gloria. **Spoken:**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. You are the One God, Sovereign of the universe,

Only Holy God, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of God:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord of all, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the Holy Unity of God. Amen.

+ Opening Prayer



+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Reader: We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation



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Reader: The Gospel reading is on page 83 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 19, verse 28 through 40.

Reader: Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be in our (+) minds that we will understand it, on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and

in our (+) hearts that we will love it.

+ First Reading The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 14, verses 1 – 16. The reading may be found in the NRSV on page 51. In part one we will read verses 1 - 11

Reader: 14 It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; ² for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

The Anointing at Bethany

³ While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴ But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, wherever the good news^[d] is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹ When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Shared Observations from Congregation.

+ Second Reading: In part two we continue in The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 14, verses 12 - 21. The reading may be found in the NRSV on page 51

The Passover with the Disciples

¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room

where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." ¹⁶ So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. ¹⁷ When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸ And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹ They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" ²⁰ He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread^[e] into the bowl^[f] with me. ²¹ For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Shared Observations from Congregation.

Offering received on Holy Thursday goes specifically to worship supplies during the year.

Preparation of Holy Communion Tables at Home.

+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altar/tables.

Leader - 1: Hello. My name is	and I am in the City
of in the State of A	t this time we show our gratitude to
God and our dedication to the Chu	rch of Jesus Christ, which is His
Body present in the world, by offer	ing our financial gifts and support for
this ministry. During our COVID In	fection Prevention procedures, we
have many ways you can continue	to support this ministry. To be
directed to our website where you	may make a secure Paypal donation
using any debit or credit card, and	you do not have to have a Paypal
account to use this, Right Click He	re. Those in the chapel may use the
offering plate, or you may send you	ur donation to Lisa Frost directly or
to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1s	^t St. Elmira, NY 14901. We always
say give what you can, but never give your last.	

At the same time, we will prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side napkin. The ideal situation is you are celebrating with us during the live webcast. We do understand you may be viewing this video at another time. We do not encourage private practice and reception of Communion as your normal, weekly worship routine. Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event SOON. (This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.)

(* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set. A song may be sung or silent prayer is maintained. *)

Leader -2: (*Pray a prayer over the offering giving thanks and praise.*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Pastor will lead everyone in preparation of their Holy Communion.

Pastor: Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time I invite you to extend your hands forward over the bread and fruit of the vine, or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

ALL: O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful

ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for our Spiritual and physical well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

+ Third Reading: In part three we continue in The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 14, verses 22-26.

The reading may be found in the NRSV on page 52

Reader: he Institution of the Lord's Supper

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, "This is my blood of the [g] covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

+ The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Having heard the Word of God and having remembered the sacrifice of the cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen



The Reception of Holy Communion

+ Sign Of Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

+ The Lamb Of God

Pastor: Please break the bread as we pray together:

ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

+ Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor: At this time I ask you to lift with me the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastor: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Behold Jesus truly present in the Bread of Life, and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks

of this Cup though they die they shall live forever. (John 6:50, 51, 54) Blessed are those who come to His Table. All are welcome.

ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word I am healed. (This prayer is credited to Fr. James Callan, Spiritus Christi of Rochester, NY.)

Pastor: Please set down the Bread and Cup at this time.

Pastor: I assure you, by His promises, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will surely live forever and be raised by Christ to new life.

Leader-1: Communion is now served. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church to receive Holy Communion. This is the Table of Jesus Christ, He invites you to come and receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION. Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception.

Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

SONG?

+ Fourth Reading: In part four we continue in The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 14, verses 26-34.

The reading may be found in the NRSV on page 52

Reader: Peter's Denial Foretold

²⁶ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷ And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'

²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ²⁹ Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." ³⁰ Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." ³¹ But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴ And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastoral Guidance: during adoration we will continue with this Gospel.

ADORATION BEGINS (five minute break)

+ Fifth Reading: In part five we continue in The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 14, verses 35-38 THE FIRST PRAYER.

The reading may be found in the NRSV on page 52

Reader: ³⁵ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸ Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

+ Sixth Reading: In part six we continue in The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 14, verses 39-40 THE SECOND PRAYER.

The reading may be found in the NRSV on page 52

Reader: ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

+ Seventh Reading: In part seven we continue in The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 14, verses 41- 52 THE THIRD PRAYER AND THE ARREST. The reading may be found in the NRSV on page 52

Reader: ⁴¹ He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

⁴³ Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ All of them deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! Pastoral Guidance. ** SILENT ADORATION CONTINUES until 8:30pm**

** BELL RINGS TO CALL EVERYONE TO BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Profession Of Faith

Creed #1: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in the One Eternal, Loving, Life-Giving, Forgiving, Good, and Gracious God, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus the Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, our Lord and Saviour.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God.

Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who is equal with God and the Son.

I believe in the one, holy, Christian Church, the Body of Jesus Christ that is universal/catholic, and apostolic.

I believe in the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting. Amen

Pastor: It is time for the Benediction. Please maintain a position of prayer most comfortable for you. You may sit or kneel during the blessing. You may make the sign of the cross if you choose to or fold your hands in prayer, or extend your hands in worship when the blessing is given.

BENEDICTION IS NOW GIVEN

Closing Prayer

Pastor: Please rise as you are able and we pray together.

ALL: Lord Jesus Christ, you have given us the Blessed Sacrament as the Most Holy Food of your Real Presence to sustain us as we wait for gather your People at the end of the Church Age. May our worship of your Body and Blood, the Gift you have given to us, help us to experience the salvation you have won for us and the peace of Paradise where you live with God The Creator, and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.



Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: (a prayer is said) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy

Spirit.

ALL: Amen

ALL: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

(Romans 15:13)

Pastor: We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!



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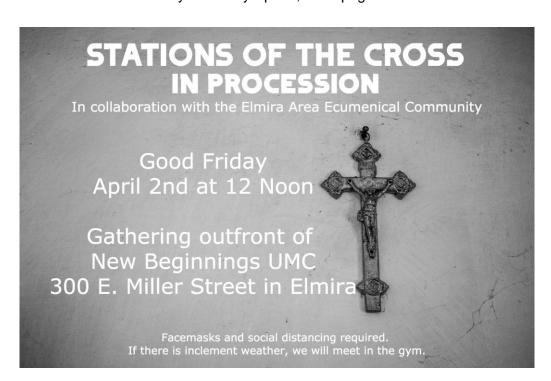
UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2, 2021 Sacrifice of the Cross

Daytime Elmira Ecumenical Clergy Noon at New Beginnings United Methodist Church 300 E. Miller St. Elmira, NY. The Skype link will be posted on our web site and it will also be live on Facebook. The liturgy will be available in PDF format.

NO EVENING SERVICE

April 3, 2021 Vigil of the Resurrection 7:45 p.m.



Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

<u>Elmira Worship</u>- Sunday 10:30 AM – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery
Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 AM.

<u>Syracuse Worship</u>- looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information

<u>Click Here.</u>

<u>Bible Enrichment-</u> Tuesday 6:30-8 PM-380 W. First St. Parsonage /Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 6:15 PM. Click Here.

** to call the Pastor: Rev. Shawn Benedict: 607-280-0374*

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our web site;

http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors At Events.htm. Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

NOTE: On June 15, 1996, as a part of the Ordination Ceremony and his profession of Benedictine Vows, Rev. Leo W. McDermott, II retired the use of his secular birth name and was given a new name in religion, Brother Shawn Francis Benedict.

The Chapel is not open to the general public at this time as we try to do out part to stop the spread of COVID-19. All of our regular services will be available live on Skype and we are adding Facebook Live. To get the information on how to use Skype to participate with us <u>Click Here</u>. Visit our Facebook page <u>Click Here</u>. As soon as it reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray.

Visitors: Please feel free to fill out the information slip below and place it in the collection plate. Please indicate any special needs you may have. All information will be used for church purposes only.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ I would like to be included on the church Email list. ____ I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor. ____ Other _____

Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

In the Spirit of God, and in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, we the Faith Community at Ray Of Hope Church commit to:

- guide and welcome all people to the Free Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, with a God-ordained celebration of all sexual orientations, and gender expressions, with an open ministry to persons affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends.
- declare and openly assert the truth that same-sex
 relationships, founded and fostered in God-centered love, are holy
 and blessed, and in fact originate by the work of the Holy Spirit; and,
 that God equally uses blessed same-sex and heterosexual Holy
 Unions and Marriages to bring God's own love and good news of
 "Salvation to all who believe" into the world.
- uphold, proclaim, and teach the historic Biblical Christian
 Doctrine, build community through worship and prayer, break the bread, and live the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
- change the world around us by living Gospel principles of social justice in everything we do, thereby exposing all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism, homophobia, sexism, and misogyny,
- proclaim the ray of hope, which is the soon coming return
 of Christ Jesus, and the fullness of His Eternal Community where the
 Will of God will establish liberty, justice, equity, and peace for all
 God's People and the universe.

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Visit us on line:

Our website: www.rayofhopechurch.com Facebook Page (like and follow) Click Here.
Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs

———Scripture verses to share with others:———

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

Titus 2:11, 3:4 The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing salvation **to everyone**.

John 5:24 Those who hear my word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks. "Lord" here refers to God principally as in the book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)