



**Ray Of Hope
Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Forty-first year of Ministry.

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor, and make disciples of every person everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19) "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:10,33)

April Struhm, Moderator

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

We extend a 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)

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are 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 refreshments and sharing.

Today is June 16, 2024, Pride Month Week 3, Year B

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."

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Exodus 22:21-24 pg. 68 in the First Testament

Gospel: Matthew 5:43-46, on page 5 in the Second Testament.

***We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament. The NRSV Bible 1st Testament numbers are found in the front portion, and the 2nd Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this confuses you, ask someone around you to assist you. Thank you.**

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. 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 honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured, and 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 ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____,

_(State)____. Good morning, and welcome ■ (** Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.**) Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion. People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

Leader-1: Today's bulletin order of worship and music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL LGBTQSIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

(The Congregation amended this By-law on September 18, 2011, and used to read: We believe that Salvation is available to all who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, and are re-born into the Life of Christ.)([Article 10 STATEMENT OF FAITH 10.01 Short Form Statement Lines 1140 – 1143](#))



Bell's 2nd ring will announce the start of the worship event.

Leader – 2: (** Reader, look up at the people and smile.**) Thank you for spending time

with us. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

ALL: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." (NABRE)

Leader -1: You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (** Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.**) Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: Good Morning, **SAINTS!** I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

ALL: We meet in the name of God our Creator, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour, and in the name of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Pastor:



Our worship is brief and to the point today, so we can watch the movie "Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom" together in the chapel and online wherever you are participating.

Today is also Father's Day, a day of celebration for some, a day of sorrow for others, and a day of questions for many. LGBTQSAINE2ss+ people may have a hard time today. Think of being separated from family members through being sold into slavery, or through war, immoral legal systems, etc.

Today is also the 28th Anniversary of our first Ordination of clergy and the start of the 29th year of Ministry.

FIRST SONG: Joyful People, Come and Worship. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adpt. Text: June Norris, © 1987; alt. with permission, as in *The Hymnal Project*, © 1989 MCC San Francisco.

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WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Pastor Benedict: Please be seated. In silent prayer.....

Leader - 1: Lord Jesus, you were sent to heal the contrite, Lord have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader - 1: Lord Jesus, you show us the way to mercy and forgiveness, Christ have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader - 1: Lord Jesus, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to you; Lord have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor Benedict: The Lord hears our prayers and knows the desires of our hearts. We have confessed our sins and asked God to forgive us through Christ.

ALL: Therefore, by the promises made known in the Scriptures, we proclaim the forgiveness of all our sins in the Name of God, and of Christ, and in the Name of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader-2: Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

ALL: We read God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

<https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-7>

The Scripture chosen for day 7 in the series Freedom For All is Exodus 22:21-24, on page 68 in the front of the 1989 Pew NRSV edition Bible. I will read the NRSV Updated Edition.

²¹ "You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. ²² You shall not abuse any widow or orphan. ²³ If

you do abuse them, when they cry out to me, I will surely heed their cry; ²⁴ my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children orphans.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+22%3A21-24&version=NRSVUE>)
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+ 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

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 43-46, on page 5 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version.

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

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

Love for Enemies

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A43-46&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church
for the 1996 New Year,
The Year of The Holy Spirit!

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sus the
Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!
You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our
joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!
For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.



The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.

The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 40 years. October 31, 2023 - 40th Anniversary now in our 41st year in Ministry.

**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me
has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10**

+ Sermon

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."

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (NRSVUE)



<https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-7>

SONG: Tell Pharaoh. Reflect, "Tell Pharaoh" track 4 on by Reflect: Juneteenth Faith & Freedom, soundtrack <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WrIWG2n-ok>



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

+ Support the ministry..

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation, including



this QRCode, this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door always available in the Chapel. Checks can be mailed, [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information. A prayer of thanksgiving for the offering is said here.

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

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.



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation.

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

Pastor: Truly present and risen among us; **SAINTS** the Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and just....

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

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 physical and spiritual well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

Leader: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

Leader -2: Having heard the Word of God and remembering 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

PASTOR: BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD BEHOLD HIM WHO TAKES
BEHOLD THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP

**ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you and
by your Word, I am healed.**

Pastor: Open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. The Gift of God for the People of God....

Pastor: I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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General Offering for the week of May 19 \$420.75 Attendance 10 on Sunday;
Wednesday, May 22, Attendance 4

General Offering for the week of May 26 \$10.00 Attendance 7 on Sunday;
Wednesday, May 29, Attendance 2

General Offering for the week of June 2 \$1,500.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday;
Wednesday, June 5, Attendance 4

General Offering for the week of June 6 \$550.00 Attendance 7 on Sunday;
Wednesday, June 5, Attendance 5
(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

****In Addition to the General Offering, we received the following Special Gifts.****

Thank you, Ed Askins for driving 5.5 hours one way to paint the front of the building this week. It looks absolutely beautiful. Thank you to Phillipa for allowing Ed to make this trip to help the Congregation.

Thank you, Lisa Frost for managing and staffing our booth at both the Elmira and Corning Pride celebrations.

Thank you, Kaiden for assisting with all three Festivals (Elmira Pride, Corning Pride, and Juneteenth) including every aspect of preparation and follow-up.

Thank you, Andrea for assisting with our booth at Juneteenth, and starting to learn about the audio and visual ministry.

****Recent Special Gifts****

An anonymous gift of \$300.00 to help with utility bills was made last week. Thank you to the person or persons who made the donation.

To be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

** See the Q.R. Code on the last page.**

***** <https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/> Christians
Against Christian Nationalism

June 16, Sunday, Father's Day, 28th Ordination Anniversary, **JTDEVOTION #7**
<https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-7> **MAJOR EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT**: Worship
will be 45 minutes, and then we will view the film "Juneteenth Faith & Freedom"
simultaneously from our homes and the chapel. Viewing the film will be a congregational
activity.

June 17, Monday, **JTDEVOTION #8** NOON <https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-8>; 3:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

June 18, Tuesday, **JTDEVOTION #9** NOON <https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-9>; Bible Enrichment 6:30 PM.

June 19, Wednesday, **JTDEVOTION #10** **11:00 AM**
<https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-10> Juneteenth; NOON Traditional
Mass

June 23, Sunday, relicense our Servants of the Eucharist,

June 24, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

June 25, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

June 26, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

June 30, Sunday Stonewall 55th Anniversary of the riots and 54th Pride Parade.

Worship will be at 10:30 AM, led by the Congregation.

On Monday, July 1, there will be no meeting by the By-Laws Revision
Committee.

July 2, Tuesday, NO MEETING Bible Enrichment.

July 3, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

The Pastor continues with a prayer that includes the blessing.....

ALL: Amen.

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to_____ You. Al - migh - ty

5
God_____ world with - out end._____ A_____ men! Al - le - lu - ia

11
A_____ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!_____

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****FIVE MINUTE BREAK*****

MOVIE LINK MOVIE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmjuDxKTzzg>

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault, God's design, God's doing from start to end.

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization**, **survival**, and **sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive**, **train**, and **transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an ***INCLUSIVE*** church for you.

We are not an ***OPEN AND AFFIRMING*** church for you.

We are not a ***RECONCILING CHURCH*** or
RECONCILING CONGREGATION for you.

We are not an ***OPEN MINDED*** or ***ACCEPTING*** or ***WELCOMING***
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.

WE ARE YOU!

THIS is the Church where YOU belong.

Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- 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.
Syracuse Worship- looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information
[Click Here](#).

Bible Enrichment- 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 website;
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 as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

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*.

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to be included on the church Email list.

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



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.

Visit us online:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Mobile-Friendly website version: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> 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)

