

Welcome to Worship at  
**Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church**

**Growing Together for Christ**

*Rev. Ken Gibson, Interim Pastor*

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[www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)



January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	Baptism of Our Lord
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We worship in-person and on-line at 9:00 am. There is a link on our website to join the on-line Worship Service through Zoom!  
Stay safe and God bless!

## Gathering

### Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

#### Call to Worship

P: Come to the waters, beloved—  
where Your Spirit moved over earth's creation,  
where Jesus was immersed in justice,  
where God leaned close to us.

**C: We splash in the river of God's joy.**

P: Come to the waters, beloved—  
where God's voice thunders,  
where God whispers kindness.

**C: We watch as Jesus steps into the muddy mess of our lives.**

P: Come to the waters, beloved—  
where the Spirit gifts us so we can stand side by side  
with the broken and forgotten.

**C: We come because we are indeed God's beloved children.**

#### Thanksgiving of Baptism

**Gathering Songs:** 10,000 Reasons

*(Please join us in "Sharing the Peace")*

Be Thou My Vision

#### Prayer of the Day

#### Word

##### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup> I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

## **PSALM: Psalm 29:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## **SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

P: <sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him...

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

### **Children's Message**

**Tessa Ancona**

### **Sermon**

**Pastor Ken Gibson**

**Hymn of the Day:** Great is Thy Faithfulness

### **Prayers of Intercession**

A: "Merciful God".....C: "Receive our prayer"

**Offering:** Friends, an offering is an act of Worship, given freely to share God's love through this congregation. Please place your offering in the basket as it is passed around, you may come forward to put your gift in the offering plate, or send your gifts to the church at: **5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051** or give online at [www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)

### **Offering Prayer**

### **Meal**

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

P: We cannot be reminded enough that God claims us as beloved children even before we are perfect people. As we remember our baptisms, let us confess those foolish choices which keep us from jumping feet first into that river of grace, where God meets us in the waters of life, saying,

**C: We know we prefer to stand on the shore, gentle God, scared to run barefoot into the waters of faith. We take small sips of the living water of grace you offer but go on binges with the mixed drinks of anger and fear. We have trouble seeing some neighbors, much less strangers, as your beloved and believe our privilege means all are as comfortable as we are.**

**As we draw near to the waters of baptism, God of grace, have mercy on us. Whenever we forget who we are, send us to serve the vulnerable. Whenever we forget what we are, challenge us to be more gracious and just. Whenever we forget whose we are, wash us again in that forgiveness deeper than our shallow lives, and fill us with new life in Christ. Amen.**

*(Silence is kept)*

P: This is our good news, friends. The Spirit descends upon us, the heavens open, and God speaks – not with judgment, punishment, or condemnation, but with joy, grace, hope, love.

**C: We are God's beloved children – forgiven, claimed, named, baptized. Thanks be to God. Amen!**

## Lord's Supper

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

#### Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

**C: 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.**

**Invitation to Communion:** *Christ is truly present with us today, especially in the gifts of bread and wine. God's table is open; we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table! After the choir is served, come up the center aisle, from front to back. If you are unable to come forward, please let the pastor or another worship leader know, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, simply keep your hands folded. The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light-colored liquid is juice. Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten free wafer. All are welcome!*

**Communion Song:** Word of God Speaks – Duet by John & Susan Cook

#### Prayer After Communion

#### Sending

**Sending Song:** Open the Eyes of My Heart

#### Sending and Benediction

P: The heavens have opened and we have heard God's voice.

**C: Let us go to speak up for all whom the world ignores.**

P: We have stood in the waters of baptism gathered into the welcoming arms of Jesus.

**C: Let us go to embrace everyone who finds the doors of hope, justice, life slammed in their faces.**

P: We have felt the touch of the Spirit resting upon us like a gentle dove.

**C: Let us go to be light in the shadows cast by the privileged and powerful, and bring peace to the broken places.**

#### Commissioning

P: At Joyful Harvest Church,

**C: our mission is growing together for Christ.**

P: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value:

**C: Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.**

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Announcements

*If you are looking for a place to worship with your family, join us any Sunday at 9:00 am! Thank you for worshipping with us today.*

### Daily Devotionals with Pastor Ken Gibson @ 8:00 am.

Pastor Ken has started doing daily devotionals on FaceBook live every weekday at 8:00 am. Go out to FaceBook and search for "Pastor Ken Gibson". Be sure to find the correct one, as there are multiple. Then send a friend request to join the group. He is looking forward to seeing you there!



**Joyful Readers Book Club:** Do you like to read, are you looking for a way to connect with other women? Consider joining the ladies of Joyful Harvest as they embark in this fellowship opportunity. The next meeting will be Sat, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a.m. They're reading "*The Lonely Hearts Book Club*" by Lucy Gilmore. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!

### Weekly Calendar

Tue. Jan 13	<b>Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast</b>	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Jan 13	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Jan 15	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Jan 18	<b>Sunday Worship</b>	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Jan 18	<b>Faith Formation Class</b>	10:30 a.m.

### Upcoming Events

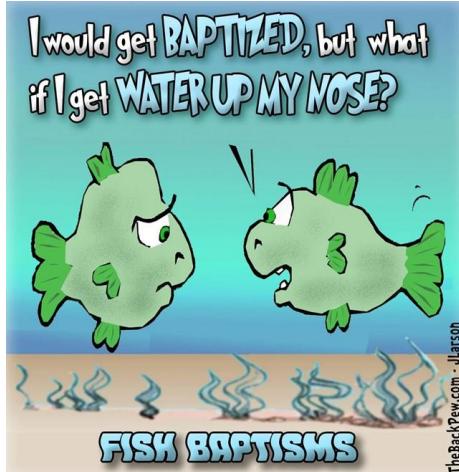
Wed. Jan 24	<b>Joyful Readers Book Club</b>	9:00 a.m.
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# JANUARY 11, 2026

## BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



*Jesus is declared as God's beloved Son.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 3:13-17</b>	<b>The baptism of Jesus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 42:1-9</b>	<b>The Lord's servant</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Acts 10:34-43</b>	<b>Gentiles hear the good news</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Matthew 1:1-17</b>	<b>Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Matthew 2:13-23</b>	<b>Going to and return from Egypt</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Acts 8:26-40</b>	<b>An Ethiopian is baptized</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 29</b>	<b>Voice of God in a storm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 1:29-42</b>	<b>Jesus, the Lamb of God</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to fulfill your promise of life and salvation for all. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)



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## WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What do you know about your own baptism or recall about a baptism you have seen?
- How is God's love and approval at Jesus' baptism important to His future work?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 3:13-17.

We can quickly move from Jesus' baptism to wonder about our own. What can be missed is a focus on the importance of Jesus' baptism as a statement of who Jesus is. We are not the savior of the world, Jesus is. Jesus fulfills the righteous intent of God announced by the law and the prophets, not us. Jesus' presence announces God's ruling activity among Israel and the nations. Jesus' life fulfilled by the word of the prophets leads to his baptism and the divine voice from heaven that points to Jesus as the Christ, the anointed one. It is good to reflect on our own baptism and do so in a way that finds comfort and meaning in the identity of who Jesus is, whose own baptism stands alone to announce that God's will is fulfilled in this one and this one alone.

*Discuss:* What does it mean to you that God calls Jesus, "My Son, the Beloved"?

*Pray:* Almighty and living God, we give thanks for Jesus' baptism that announces that he is the one who comes as your Son and enters the world as our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what does it mean to serve others in Jesus' name?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When we describe someone as beloved, it means we love that person dearly. God named Jesus as beloved at his baptism. When we are baptized, we too, become a beloved member of God's family. Share in a ritual of baptismal remembrance. Place a bowl of water in the center of your table. Dip a finger in the water and make the sign of the cross on your own forehead or that of another person.

*Say:* You are a beloved child of God marked with the cross of Christ forever.



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