

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

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www.joyfulharvest.org



February 1st, 2026	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
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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: When we seek justice for the other,
when we love kindness more than ever,

C: we live as God asks us to live.

P: When we walk humbly through life,
when we offer mercy to those who hurt us,

C: we are the blessing God hopes we will be.

P: When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus,
when we choose weakness rather than power,

C: we reflect the One who is in our midst.

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty
was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness
of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you
strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

Gathering Songs: Mighty to Save
(Please join us in "Sharing the Peace")
This Little Light of Mine

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and
let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against
his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ "O my people, what have I
done to you In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you

up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” ⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 15:1-5

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar?

Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the

proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call,

brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he....

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: Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

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

Offering Prayer

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: Come to the Table

Prayer After Communion

Sending

Sending Song: All the People Said "Amen"

Sending and Benediction

P: We have been nourished by God's grace and hope,

C: and so we will go to those who hunger for justice, as well as to those who thirst for reconciliation.

P: We are called to follow the One who is weak and powerless,

C: and so we will bring healing to the broken among us, as well as comfort to those who grieve in every moment.

P: We learn what is right and good from the Holy Spirit,

C: and so we will go as fools to be blessings to the wise, as well as to do not what is easy, but what is difficult.

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.

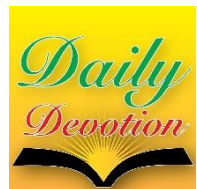
C: Thanks be to God.

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 @ 8:00am.

Pastor Ken has started doing daily devotionals on FaceBook live every weekday at 8:00am. 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!



Blood Drive! Sat. Feb 28, 8:00am-12:00pm: Please help fill the need for blood donations. More than 75 percent of all Americans reaching age 72 will need donated blood within their lifetime; 97 percent will have a loved one who will need blood. You can register online at <https://donateblood.versiti.org> or walk-ins are always welcome.



Lenten Simple Suppers & Holden Evening Prayer:

Starting Wed. Feb. 25th thru Wed. Mar. 25th in the spirit of Lent (period of fasting & self-denial) we will be having a “simple supper” consisting of only soup & bread at 6:00pm, followed by Holden Evening Prayer (music based) service at 6:30pm. Please see the sign-up board in the Narthax.

Weekly Calendar

Tue. Feb 03	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Feb 03	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Feb 05	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Feb 08	Sunday Worship – NO Faith Formation Class	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Feb 08	Giving Closet	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Wed.Feb 11	Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Wed.Feb 18	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 p.m.
Wed.Feb 25	Simple Supper	6:00 p.m.
Wed.Feb 25	Holden Evening Prayer Service	6:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb 28	Versiti Blood Drive	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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FEBRUARY 1, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Do justice and love kindness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount
Monday	Micah 6:1-8	True obedience
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Message of the cross
Wednesday	Proverbs 21:12-15	When justice is done
Thursday	Romans 12:9-13	Marks of a Christian
Friday	Isaiah 1:11-17	Rescue the oppressed
Saturday	Psalms 15	Life of the blameless
Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, bless us with contentment to a life lived pursuing justice, kindness, and humility. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for the gift of each day and the food that nourishes us. Help us to show our thanks with compassion for others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you find peace and comfort in God.



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:

- How has someone shown you kindness recently?
- Where have you seen God's mercy and kindness in action?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew 5:1-12.

In the reading from Micah, God is pleading a court case against Israel. The people have turned from God, but God wonders how this could be. The guilt of the people is on themselves because God has done marvelous things for the people by bringing them out of Egypt and slavery and giving them leaders like Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. Their enemies were conquered. With their guilt before them, the people wonder what the appropriate penance is. Is it thousands of sacrifices? Is it endless amounts of holy oils? Sacrifice one's own child? Nothing will do but *"to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"* (Micah 6.8). In the Beatitudes of Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus offers a similar path for faithful followers: poverty of spirit, humility, and mercy. The larger Gospel of Matthew cannot be understood without the content of the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. This is the path for us to be satisfied and blessed, the path of living as a disciple with purpose.

Discuss: How easy or difficult is it to live as a disciple?

Pray: **Dear God, give us the simple joy of trust in you by living a life of purpose that seeks justice, kindness, and humility with you and all people, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bless someone with a spirit of humility?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Matthew 5:3-11 speaks of blessings. A wonderful ritual to practice regularly in your home is that of blessing one another. When we bless another, we are calling upon God to show goodness and kindness to them, as well as demonstrating our own care and concern for them. There are three basic elements to a personal blessing – God's name, words, and touch (e.g. a hand on a shoulder, or making the sign of the cross on their forehead or palm). Consider blessing one another at mealtimes, bedtimes, and at daily farewells with family and friends.

Say: **May God bless you with kindness and mercy.**



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