Welcome to Worship at

Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor
Office: 847-497-4JOY (4569) – Cell: 815-861-9554
5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org

March 15th, 2026	**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

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: Early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.
C: We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.
P: During the day, Jesus comes to invite us to serve.
C: We rise from our work and leisure to bring healing and hope to others.
P: In the shadowed evenings of our fears and worries, the Spirit is with us.
C: The Light of life shines on us in every moment of every day.

Gathering Song: Take My Life

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
C: Amen.
P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.
(Silence is kept for reflection.)
P: Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
P: For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

P: Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.
C: Amen.

Faith Song: You Are Mine

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have
rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out;
I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a
king among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he
will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have
come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show
you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name
to you." 4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem.
The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come
peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD;
sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified
Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ……. 13 Then Samuel
took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and
the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward.
Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.
A: Word of God, Word of Life
C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 23:1-6

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
2 **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**
3 You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

8 Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as
children of light, 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and
right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part
in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. 12 For it is
shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, 13 but everything
exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible
is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ
will shine on you."

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: 1 As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples…

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: The Summons

Prayers of Intercession

A:"Hear us, O God",...**C: "Your mercy is great"**

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 o**r give online at **www.joyfulharvest.org**

Sharing of the Peace

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 Just as You Are/I Love You Lord

Prayer After Communion

Sending

Sending Song: Here I Am Lord

Sending and Benediction

P: Now go to take the love of God into the world.
C: We will show others the way to God's fields of grace.
P: Now go to take grace of Jesus into the world.
C: We will seek to bring others to the still waters of peace.
P: Now go to take the community of the Spirit into the world.
C: We will work to restore the lives of all whom we meet.

Commissioning

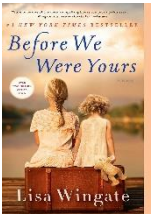
P: At Joyful Harvest Church,
C: our mission is growing together for Christ.
P: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value:
C: Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.
P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.
C: Thanks be to 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.

Lenten Simple Suppers & Holden Evening Prayer:
Last three weeks: Wed. Mar. 11th thru Wed. Mar. 25th in the spirit of Lent (period of fasting & self-denial) we will be continuing our "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 Narthex.

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, Apr 11th at 9:00a.m. They're reading *"Before We Were Yours"* by Lisa Wingate. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!



Feed My Starving Children Sat. Apr. 11th, 11:30-1:15pm.
Help us pack meals for children who are less fortunate. This is a great opportunity to spend time with your family doing God's work. Since we are required to have a certain number of volunteers, please sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office at 847-497-4569. If you would like to ride share/car pool, please arrive at the Church no later then 10:15am as we will be leaving by 10:30am. If you prefer you can go directly to the facility at 742 E Park Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048. Please arrive at the facility by 11:15am. For more information see Trudy Moriarty. No experience necessary!!!

Palm Sunday Brunch! Sun. Mar 29 @ 10:30 a.m.
Since Easter can be so overwhelming with church and family get togethers, we will be celebrating with a brunch on Palm Sunday. Bring your favorite "Easter" dish to share. Please signup on the board in the Narthex.

Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	**Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken**	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Mar 17	**Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast**	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Mar 17	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Mar 18	**Simple Supper**	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Mar 18	**Holden Evening Prayer Service**	6:30 p.m.
Thur. Mar 19	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Mar 22	**Sunday Worship**	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Mar 22	**Faith Formation Class**	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Wed. Mar 25	**LAST - Simple Supper**	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Mar 25	**LAST - Holden Evening Prayer Service**	6:30 p.m.
Sun. Mar 29	**Palm Sunday Worship**	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Mar 29	**Palm Sunday Brunch**	10:30 a.m.-noon

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Sat. Apr 11th – **Joyful Readers Book Club**
Sat. Apr 11th – **Feed My Starving Children**

Songs are reproduced, projected, and streamed with permission under CCLI #1029838.
Portions of the liturgy are Copyright © Thom M. Shuman 2017
Portions of the liturgy are copyright © Augsburg Fortress 2020
Portions of the liturgy are copyright © Joyful Harvest Church, ELCA 2020

MARCH 15, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking faith home

Jesus brings light and new life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	**John 9:1-41**	**The man born blind**
Monday	**1 Samuel 16:1-13**	**David is anointed king**
Tuesday	**Ephesians 5:8-14**	**Living as people of light**
Wednesday	**James 4:11-12**	**Warning against judging others**
Thursday	**Isaiah 55:6-11**	**God's ways are not our ways**
Friday	**Matthew 7:1-5**	**Judging others**
Saturday	**Psalm 23**	**The Lord is my shepherd**
Sunday	**John 11:1-45**	**The raising of Lazarus**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.
Ephesians 5:8-9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Dear God, thank you for overcoming our darkness with the light of Christ; help us live as children of light and to be filled with all that is good and right and true through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Lord Jesus, you give sight to the blind and food to the hungry. We thank you for your kindness and praise you for your goodness. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the light of Jesus shine through you.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

© 2025 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.
In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**

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:

- Think or tell of a time that you felt you were "in the dark" and needed help to see something more clearly.
- How does the light of Christ help you see the world with hope and love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and John 9:1-41.

In John 9 Jesus sees in the blind man a person who needs mercy and sight. This story is built on an important theme that Jesus is the *"true light, which enlightens everyone"* introduced in John 1:9. Just as Jesus gave sight to the blind man, Jesus gives divine light for all the world. Jesus' light challenges the Pharisees who think they see yet do not truly see. In 1 Samuel the prophet is to anoint a new king, but Samuel is not able to perceive or see what God sees. A scrawny, youngest son (David) who is originally not even considered as a candidate, is chosen by God to be king. Thankfully, God sees and decides by a standard far different from our own. In our blindness, Jesus comes to us and shows God's work of healing and new life. The light Jesus brings into the world helps us to see ourselves and others with mercy.

Discuss: How has Jesus, the "true light," enlightened your life and helped you see others with mercy?

Pray: ***Almighty and merciful God, thank you for your ways that conquer human blindness with hope and new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.***

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who can you reach out to that needs words and acts of compassion and kindness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the fourth week in Lent, light four of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) is being introduced as a way to pray. This week represents "**S**", for Supplication, meaning to humbly ask God to provide something for yourself or on behalf of someone else.

Pray: **Dear God, just as you healed the blind man, I ask for your healing in the lives of those who are in need of your loving presence including . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

Joyful HARVEST LUTHERAN CHURCH

5050 N Johnsburg Road
Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org
(847) 497-4569