

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

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www.joyfulharvest.org



April 12th, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

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: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: The whole creation rejoices;
the birds sing from every tree.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is in our midst!

**C: Babies babble with sounds of joy;
words cannot express our overflowing hearts.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is our light forever!

**C: Breathing peace on us in these moments;
surrounding us with grace and hope.**

Opening Song: All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

Faith Song: I've Got No Doubt

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' ²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' ³² "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 16:1-11

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

³ But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹ You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the ...

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: Above All

Prayers of Intercession

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

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Invitation: 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: Holy and Anointed One/Thy Word

Prayer After Communion

Sending

Sending and Benediction

P: Go forth in the love of God.

C: We will take this love into unlovely parts of our lives.

P: Go forth in the grace of Jesus Christ.

C: We will look for him in the faces of every person we meet.

P: Go forth in the peace of the Spirit.

C: We will share this hope with the brokenness all around us.

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.

Sending Song: Grace Like Rain

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

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 Monday-Thursday 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!



Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Apr 14	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Apr 14	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Apr 15	Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Thur. Apr 16	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Apr 19	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Apr 19	Faith Formation Class	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

End of April – Luminaria Fund Raiser for the Veterans

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**“You don’t double click anything,
son. It’s a Bible.”**

**APRIL 12, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



Faith in Jesus means a relationship with Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Peter addresses the crowd
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Wednesday	Mark 10:46-52	The healing of blind Bartimaeus
Thursday	John 4:1-30	Woman at the well with Jesus
Friday	John 4:46-54	Jesus heals an official's son
Saturday	Palm 16	Song of trust in God
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." **John 20:28-29 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Everlasting God, strengthen us in faith; give us the desire to know you more day by day that we may live with love and hope through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may we receive this food with joy, knowing that all good gifts come from you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord, bring you joy.



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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 are words that describe your relationship with a friend or family member?
- In what ways can you grow in your relationship with Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 20:19-31.

It is hard to read this text and not be influenced by the title “doubting Thomas.” However, it is only Thomas in the entire Gospel of John who makes the confession of faith that Jesus is God and more specifically, “*My God*” (v. 28). In this passage there are at least two important points revealed about the Christian faith: 1) faith is relational (Thomas personalizes Jesus as “*My God*”), and 2) faith is a lifelong journey. Jesus blessed those who “*come to believe*” (v. 29). The Greek text denotes a continuous process, not just believing at a certain point in time, but continuing to believe. In a faith that is relational, this ongoing process of believing and relating to Jesus is essential. What Jesus means for us and to us will continue to develop for a lifetime. As we age and as we have new experiences and challenges, the meaning of Jesus for our lives and our world evolves, even as we evolve and “*have life in his name*” (v. 31). Our relationship with Jesus grows and develops over time.

Discuss: How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

Pray: ***Come, Lord Jesus, into my life again this day, that I may gladly acknowledge you as my God and have life through you each and every day. 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 help others to see Jesus as Lord through your actions and words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



When Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection, he said, “*Peace be with you*” (John 20:19b). This has become a traditional greeting among Christians as a reminder of Christ’s presence. Greet friends and family in your home using these words: “***Peace be with you.***”



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