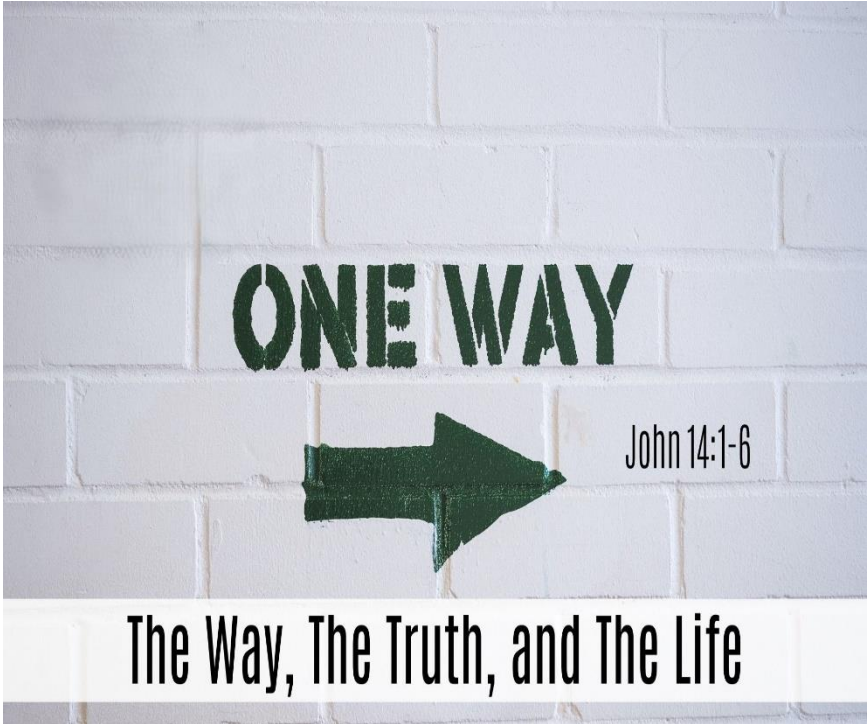


Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church
Growing Together for Christ
Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor
Office: 847-497-4JOY (4569) – Cell: 815-861-9554
5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org



May 3rd, 2026

Fifth 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: We are God's household:

**C: our hearts a shelter for the outcast;
our hands open to the stranger.**

P: We are God's people:

**C: to tell others of God's love,
to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.**

P: We are God's children:

**C: chosen to serve the lost and lonely,
gifted to minister to a hurting world.**

Opening Song: A Mighty Fortress

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

Faith Song: God of Wonders

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸ and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now

you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled.....

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: Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life (ELW #816)

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: Revelation Song/Father I Adore You

Prayer After Communion

Sending

Sending and Benediction

P: May the blessings of the One who is the Way
be with you in the days to come.

C: May God guide our feet wherever we go.

P: May the blessings of Jesus who is our Life
be with you in the days to come.

**C: May he lead us by the hand
to those who are our neighbors in need.**

P: May the blessings of the Spirit of Truth
be with you in the days to come.

**C: May we journey with the Spirit
to that way which is everlasting.**

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: That Where I Am

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

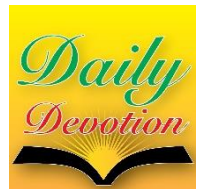
C: Thanks be to God.

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!



Memorial Day Luminaria Fundraiser for Veterans:

On Sun. May. 10th & Sun. May. 17th we will be selling Luminaria bags & bracelets for our 2nd annual "Luminaria Lighting Ceremony". On Sun. May 24th, we will line the corner with our decorated bags, say a special prayer and light the bags in honor of our fallen heroes!



Spring Clean-up & Garden! Sat. May 16th 9:00am-Noon:

Join us in helping to make our church "Shine". Helpers are needed to do inside and outside sprucing up of our church community environment, along with planting our community garden. Please sign-up on the board in the narthex to let us know if you would like to work inside, outside or in the garden. We will provide hotdogs, chips & side salad afterwards.

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, Jun 13th at 9:00a.m. They're reading "Where the Wildflowers Grow" by Terah Shelton Harris. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!



Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken	8:00 a.m.
Tue. May 05	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. May 05	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. May 07	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. May 10	Sunday Worship – Mother's Day	9:00 a.m.
Sun. May 10	NO Faith Formation Class	10:30 a.m.
Sun. May 10	Luminaria Sales	10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Sun. May 17	Luminaria Sales	10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
Sat. May 16	Spring Clean-up & Garden	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Sat. May 16	1st Saturday Night Service	4:30 p.m.
Sun. May 24	Luminaria Lighting Ceremony	10:15 a.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

June 13 – Joyful Readers

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**MAY 3, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



We are precious in God's sight.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Stephen
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:2-10	A chosen people
Wednesday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Thursday	Hebrews 11:29-40	The faith of heroes
Friday	Lamentations 3:19-24	God's steadfast love endures
Saturday	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you send us out to witness to Jesus Christ; give us confidence and courage to be your faithful witnesses. Fill us with mercy and love through Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food strengthen the body and your word strengthen our calling to be your loving and faithful witnesses in the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with the steadfast love of Jesus.



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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:

- When is a time you were honored for something you did?
- What are words that you would use to describe God's people?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Peter 2:2-10.

1 Peter helps us to imagine the meaning of Christ's resurrection for our lives. Jesus is the living stone rejected by people yet "*precious in God's sight*" (v. 4). As followers of Jesus, we are living stones built into a sacred community, "*a holy priesthood*" (v. 5). The imagery in this reading is expanded to explore its spiritual depth. We are "*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people*" (v. 9). This rich language and imagery all lead us to understand the treasured life we have. We are called to speak of God in Jesus Christ, the one who has brought us out of darkness and into a precious and holy light. Once we were those who had not received mercy, those who were not God's people. Now we are God's people and live lives filled with mercy and honor to be God's chosen people. Jesus' resurrection changed our lives from desperation to empowerment and joy. It is no wonder that we are to be like babes, thirsting for spiritual milk so we may grow into a life that is our inheritance and delight.

Discuss: How does being one of God's chosen people affect how you live your life?

*Pray: **Almighty and living God, remind us again and again of our holy calling as your chosen people sent out to others with words of mercy and hope 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 show mercy to someone who is feeling lonely or in pain?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



1 Peter 2:4-5 describes Jesus as "*a living stone*" and Jesus' followers "*like living stones*" to be "*built into a spiritual house.*" Gather some smooth stones. Draw a cross on a large stone and write the names of family and friends on the smaller ones. Place the smaller stones around the one with the cross on it in a visible place in your home. Think or talk about what it means to be a "spiritual house" where God dwells. Take a moment to look at the stones and say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**



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