Welcome to Worship at

Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor
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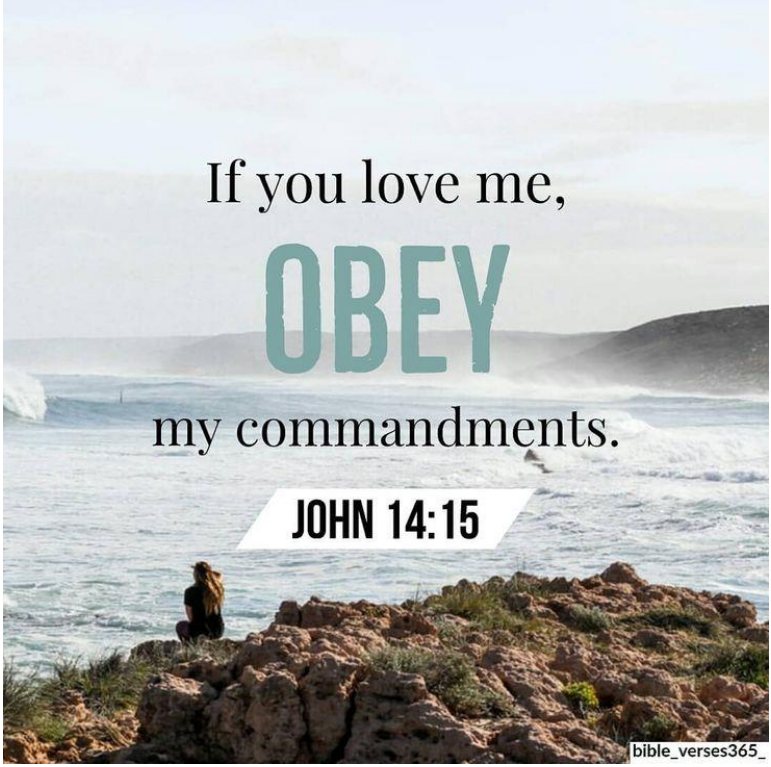


May 17th, 2026	**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

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: At the presence of God, we rejoice:
C: glorifying the One who is Parent of all orphans.
P: In the presence of Jesus Christ, we listen:
C: to the Voice who calls us to humbly serve others.
P: Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we speak:
C: making God's love known to the world-forsaken in our midst.

Opening Song: They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

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: Beautiful Savior

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

6 When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this
the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is
not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own
authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon
you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,

and to the ends of the earth." [9] When he had said this, as they were
watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. [10] While
he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men
in white robes stood by them. [11] They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you
stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from
you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into
heaven." [12] Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet,
which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. [13] When they had
entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying:
Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew
and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and…….
A: Word of God, Word of Life
C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

[1] Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.
[2] **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away; as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**
[3] But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.
[4] **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**
[5] In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;
[6] **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.**
[7] O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,
[8] **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**
[9] You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished.
[10] **Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**
[32] Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.
[33] **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**
[34] Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.
[35] How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-17, 5:6-11

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place
among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to
you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you
may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are
reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory,
which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. 5:6 Humble yourselves,
therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due
time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 8 Discipline
yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls
around, looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in your
faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are
undergoing the same kinds of suffering. 10 And after you have suffered for
a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in
Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To
him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] 15 "If you love me, you will keep my.....

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: We Will Glorify the King of Kings

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 o**r 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: O Come to the Altar/Awesome God

Prayer After Communion

Sending

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.

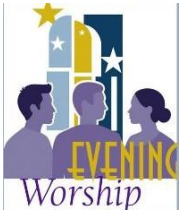
SENDING
P: The hour has come to go into the world,
C: where we will worship God in every moment of our lives.
P: The hour has come to serve those around us,
C: to shoulder the burdens and ease the pain of our neighbors.
P: The hour has come to glorify God,
C: with our prayers as well as our praise,
with songs as well as acts of service.

Sending Song: Today is the Day

BENEDICTION
P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C: Amen
P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
C: Thanks be to God.

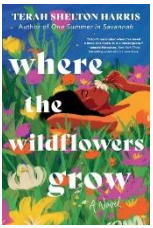
Announcements

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.



Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL) @ 4:30pm:
Can't make it on Sunday?? Come to our new Saturday night Liturgy (SNL) to see what you're missing. Join Pr. Ken on Saturday nights (see schedule below) at 4:30 pm and enjoy a shortened version of the following Sunday's service. We will be using our new hymnals!

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 19	**Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast**	8:00 a.m.
Tue.	May 19	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur.	May 21	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat.	May 23	**Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**	4:30 p.m.
Sun.	May 24	**Sunday Worship w/Baptism & Luminaria**	9:00 a.m.
Sun.	May 24	**Faith Formation Class**	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sun.	May 30	**NO Saturday Night Service**	N/A
Sat.	Jun 13	**Joyful Readers**	9:00-10:00 a.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

June 6 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**
June 13 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**
June 14 – **Giving Closet/No Faith Formation**
June 27 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**

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MAY 17, 2026
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

taking faith home

Eternity is living now with God and with on another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	**John 17:1-11**	**Jesus prays for his disciples**
Monday	**Acts 1-6-14**	**Ascension of Jesus**
Tuesday	**1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11**	**Tending the flock of God**
Wednesday	**1 Thessalonians 5:12-28**	**Paul's encouraging words**
Thursday	**Deuteronomy 8:1-10**	**God's protection**
Friday	**Ephesians 4:7-16**	**Unity in the body of Christ**
Saturday	**Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35**	**Praise and thanksgiving**
Sunday	**John 20:19-23**	**Jesus appears to his disciples**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ***John 17:3 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Eternal God, give us the Spirit of Christ that we may know you and live with you today and with one another in love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Lord of orphans and protector of widows, as we enjoy this meal, we pray for food for all people. Amen. (Psalm 68:5)

A Blessing to Give:
May the God of grace strengthen you.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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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:

- If you could spend a day doing anything you want to do, what would it be?
- How is God's love different than a friend's love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 17:1-11.

Being with God in eternity seems to be something we anticipate after we die, but not in the Gospel of John. Eternity is understood as a life that begins now and is experienced through faith in *"the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent"* (v. 3). Jesus speaks of his glory. The hour of his glory is his suffering, death, and resurrection. We participate in Jesus' glory as those who remain in the world now protected by God. Eternal life is experienced as a life of glory that knows suffering and also knows God in Christ. A personal relationship with Jesus is not private. We live in eternity now as the body of Christ in the world together. Therefore, Jesus prays that all of his followers *"may be one, as we are one,"* (v. 11) that is, as Jesus and the Father are one. Eternal life involves a relationship to God that knows, trusts, and believes in Jesus as the one who is with the Father. One may ask, "How do you think you will experience eternity after you have died?" John's question would be, "How do you experience eternity now, living with God and with one another in a world that God loves?"

Discuss: What difference does it make for you to know that eternity is now, and not just after you die?

Pray: ***Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of faith that we may experience your presence in our lives through the body of Christ. 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 someone who is experiencing challenges in their life?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The disciples watched Jesus ascend to heaven as a cloud took him out of sight. Jesus told the disciples they would be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). Make a dessert in a glass alternating blue gelatin with whipped cream to symbolize the sky, clouds, and Jesus' ascension. While eating the dessert, think or talk about ways you have been or can be a witness for Jesus. After you finish, say the Lord's Prayer.

Joyful HARVEST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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