

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church
Growing Together for Christ
Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor
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5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org



July 5th, 2026

6th Sunday after Pentecost

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 God could stomp his feet and yell,

C: God tiptoes into our hearts to whisper mercy.

P: When God could play favorites, locking others out,

C: God holds wide the arms of love to embrace everyone.

P: When God could break promises, going back on every word given,

**C: God picks up those we step on, on the way to success,
and cradles the lonely and frightened.**

Opening Song: I Lift My Eyes Up

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: Jesus, Friend of Sinners

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and
riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ He will cut off the
chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle
bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his

dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this.....

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: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (ELW #611)

Prayers of Intercession

A: “God of grace”,...C: “Hear 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 Songs: What a Friend We Have in Jesus/Give Thanks

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: We have sung songs of praises to our God.

C: We will now go to speak of justice to all who hold power.

P: We have learned how Jesus would have us serve.

C: We will go to turn our thoughts into action, and our prayers into caring for others.

P: We have been filled with the Spirit's hope.

C: We will go into our neighborhoods to share peace with everyone.

Sending Song: Friend of God

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: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

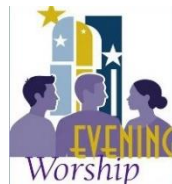
C: Thanks be to God.

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.

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!



Volleyball/Family Fun Night! Sat. Jul 18th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Want to let the kids burn off some energy? Join us for an indoor game of volleyball. In case you're not that athletic we will also be playing baggo, jenga, board and card games. Have a favorite game you'd like to share, bring it along. We will be providing pizza and drinks.



Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Jul 07	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Jul 07	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Jul 09	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Jul 11	Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	4:30 p.m.
Sun. Jul 12	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sun. Jul 12	Giving Closet	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Wed. Jul 15	Council Meeting	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Sat. Jul 18	Volleyball/Game Night	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sat. Jul 18	NO - Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	N/A

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

July 25 – Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)

Aug 8 – Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)

Aug 15 – Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)

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**"But there's not enough space for Thou
shalt not wear socks with sandals."**

July 5, 2026
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus gives rest to the weary.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary
Monday	Zechariah 9:9-12	Coming ruler of God's people
Tuesday	Romans 7:15-25a	The conflict in us
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Thursday	Hebrews 4:1-11	Rest that God promised
Friday	Mark 2:23-27	A question about sabbath
Saturday	Psalms 145:8-14	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." **Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, we thank you for giving us rest when we are weary and the invitation to lean on you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for this gift of food that strengthens our bodies and your presence in our lives that gives rest for our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God take your burdens and give you rest.



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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 you are exhausted, where do you find rest and support?
- Jesus gives rest to the weary. How has Jesus given you rest?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

In this text Jesus speaks with two very different emotional tones. When Jesus names “*this generation*” (v. 16), he is really speaking about us. As humans, we are bent on rejecting God, preserving alienation from God, and pursuing idols of any sort. We, as people seeking after our own glory, will never be satisfied with God. We reject the austerity of John the Baptist and the life of abundant pleasure of Jesus. God’s message offered music that we refuse to dance to and grief for which we refuse to express sadness. But the tone changes dramatically at verse 25. God reveals Jesus to infants, to the weary, and to those carrying heavy burdens. The Gospel of Matthew is filled with judgment for those who are content with their own lives and yet merciful to those wanting and needing something they cannot give themselves: the peace and joy of the reign of God. In the moment of need, Jesus comes and gives us rest, takes our burdens, and gives us an easy yoke to guide us.

Discuss: Jesus speaks with words of judgment and of comfort. Why do you think we need to hear both?

Pray: **Merciful God, cleanse us of our self-assurance that is blind to you, and help us to hear your invitation to find rest for our souls 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 help and support someone you know who is in need of rest?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Read Psalm 145:8-14 as a traditional prayer practice called *lectio divina*. Read the text two times slowly, pausing after each reading. After the second reading, choose a word or phrase from the text that captures your attention. Focus on that word or phrase. Then read the text again and think about how the text connects with your life today. Pause, again, for reflection. Read the passage a fourth time and spend time reflecting on how this passage might direct your life to some action in the next few days. Conclude your time of prayer and reflection with verse 8: “***The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.***”



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