

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

THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

MATTHEW 13: 24-30, 36-43



July 19th, 2026

8th 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: From the moment we open our eyes each morning,
until we close them at night, God is with us.

C: There is no one like you, our God!

P: In times when we are surrounded with struggles,
in all the surprising places we find hope, Jesus is with us.

C: There is no one like you, our Friend!

P: When we feel orphaned by the world, when we are welcomed into
faith's family, the Holy Spirit is with us.

C: There is no one like you, Witnessing Spirit!

Opening Song: Joy to the World/Hymn of Joy

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: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of
hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is
like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸ Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³ For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes

for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of.....

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 Ye Thankful People Come (ELW #693)

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. Johnsbury Rd., Johnsbury, 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: ANTHEM – All Good Gifts/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: Go forth as God's people.

C: We will greet everyone as one of the family.

P: Go forth as followers of Jesus.

C: We will serve everyone we meet, especially those who have been thrown aside by the world.

P: Go forth with the gifts of the Spirit in you.

C: We will be that hope which everyone longs to see.

Sending Song: Better Is One 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: 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!



Wed. "Weed & Feed" – Watch for upcoming dates!

Wear your "Holy" jeans, bring a pair of gloves and roll up your sleeves! Help is needed to keep the garden looking good. Watch your bulletin and keep your ears open during announcements to find out the next date. "Weeding" will start at 4:00pm and we will have a light "feeding" at 5:00pm. Please sign up on welcome table, be sure to include phone # in case of cancellation.



Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Jul 21	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Jul 21	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Jul 22	"Weed & Feed" Gardening	4:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Jul 23	Food Pantry Meeting @ Joyful Harvest	12:00-1:00 p.m.
Thur. Jul 23	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Jul 25	Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	4:30 p.m.
Sun. Jul 26	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sat. Aug 01	NO - Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	N/A
Sat. Aug 08	Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	N/A

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Wednesdays as Announced – **"Weed & Feed"**

Aug 15 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**

Aug 22 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**

Sept 5 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**

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July 19, 2026
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Christians are people of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds
Monday	Isaiah 44:6-8	The Lord’s promise to Isreal
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-25	Future glory for God’s people
Wednesday	Genesis 28:10-22	Jacob’s dream at Bethel
Thursday	Psalm 139:1-24	The inescapable God
Friday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalm 86:11-17	Save me, Lord
Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:24-25 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, may the hope you have given us take away our fear and strengthen us for each new day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for your goodness and for the good seed that falls into the soil to give us bread. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be gracious to you.



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:

- Where do you find hope when you read or hear something bad in the news?
- How does the power of the Holy Spirit in your life give you hope?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 8:12-25.

The Apostle Paul speaks about our death *“by the Spirit”* that we may live (v. 13). It is a baptismal theme he mentioned in Romans 6:4: *“ . . . we have been buried with [Christ] by baptism into death . . . so we too might walk in newness of life.”* Paul speaks of living *“according to the flesh”* (v. 13). It is the life lived without hope in God. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit and are adopted as children of God. That life-giving Spirit kills the *“deeds of the body”* (v. 13), our life in the flesh (life without God). Life in Christ is a death and life experience, one that leads to hope. As children who can say, *“Abba! Father!”* (v. 15), we are heirs of God’s future in Christ. Being an heir does not mean we avoid disappointments and hurts. In fact, Paul reminds us that we *“suffer with [Christ] so that we may also be glorified with him”* (v. 17). We are people of hope as we suffer—just as Christ suffered and died—that we may rise with Christ to a new life. In faith, we wait for Christ’s final victory with hope and patience.

Discuss: How does being an heir of God’s future in Christ give you patience and hope?

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, you give us a living hope; through the ups and downs of life, help us to have faith in you and trust in your saving work now and always. 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 support and encourage someone going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships – often in our own homes. Think or talk about the Christian rituals and traditions you do in your home, like prayer and scripture reading. Who taught them to you? Have you taught some of these rituals and traditions to a family member or someone else? If not, think about who you can teach them to.

Then pray: “Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.” Amen. (Psalm 86:11)



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