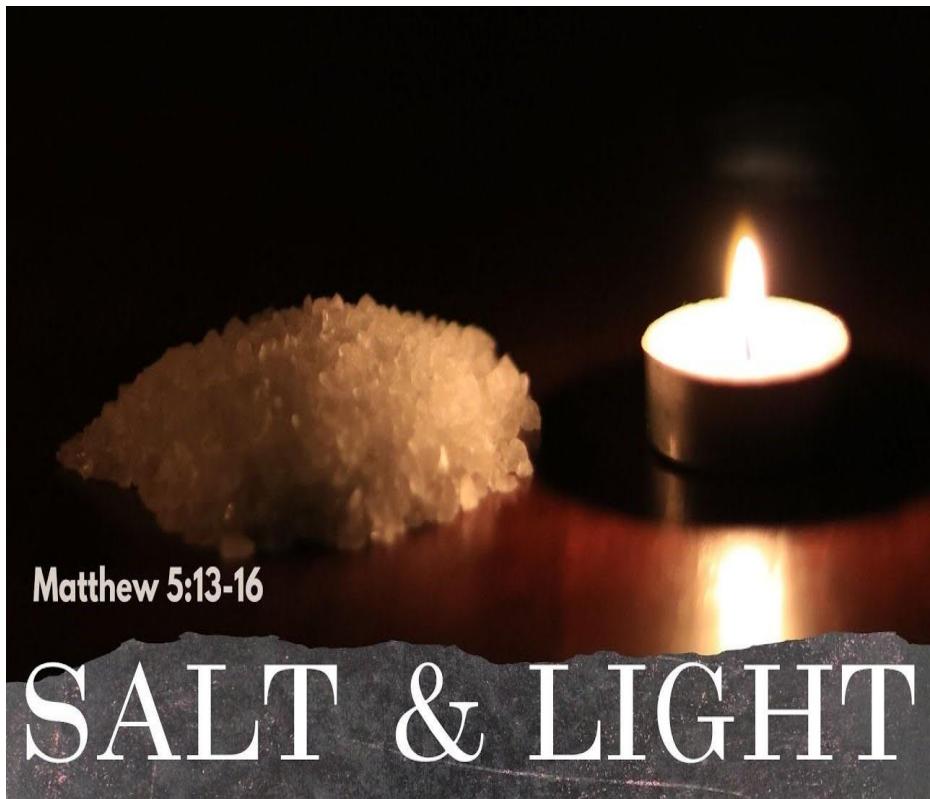


Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church
Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

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5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051
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Matthew 5:13-16

SALT & LIGHT

February 8th, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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: Called to be light,

C: we would carry God's hope into the shadows of the world.

P: Called to be salt,

C: we would enhance the lives of those around us, with joy.

P: Called to live in God's reality,

C: we would welcome everyone as family in faith.

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives you all your sins in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

Gathering Songs: Dance With Me

(Please join us in "Sharing the Peace")

Shine Jesus Shine

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to

strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 112:1-10

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but

with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said:] ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its.....

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 Want to Walk As a Child of the Light

Prayers of Intercession

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

Offering: 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: Agnus Dei

Prayer After Communion

Sending

Sending Song: Salt and Light

Sending and Benediction

P: To those huddled in the shadows of fear and worry,

C: God sends us to be light.

P: To those whose lives and hopes have lost all flavor,

C: Jesus sends us to be salt.

P: To a society where love is tossed aside as easily as a food wrapper,

C: the Spirit sends us to be faithful caregivers of everyone we meet.

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.

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

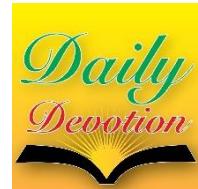
C: Thanks be to God.

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 every weekday 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!



Blood Drive! Sat. Feb 28, 8:00am-12:00pm: Please help fill the need for blood donations. More than 75 percent of all Americans reaching age 72 will need donated blood within their lifetime; 97 percent will have a loved one who will need blood. You can register online at <https://donateblood.versiti.org> or walk-ins are always welcome.



Lenten Simple Suppers & Holden Evening Prayer:

Starting Wed. Feb. 25th thru Wed. Mar. 25th in the spirit of Lent (period of fasting & self-denial) we will be having a "simple supper" consisting of only soup & bread at 6:00pm, followed by Holden Evening Prayer (music based) service at 6:30pm. Please see the sign-up board in the Narthax.

Weekly Calendar

Tue. Feb 10	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Feb 10	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Feb 11	Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Thur. Feb 12	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Feb 15	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Feb 15	Faith Formation Class	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Wed. Feb 18	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 p.m.
Wed. Feb 25	Simple Supper	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Feb 25	Holden Evening Prayer Service	6:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb 28	Versiti Blood Drive	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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FEBRUARY 8, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

taking
faith
home

The power of knowing Christ crucified.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Galatians 2:15-21	Everyone is saved by faith
Thursday	1 Peter 2:18-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Christ is God's power and wisdom
Saturday	Psalm 112:1-10	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, help us to see that through the cross of Christ we are made your people and to be the salt of the earth to share your saving work with others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of your generosity and your desire for us to provide food for the needy. Amen. (Isaiah 58:7)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with trust in God.



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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:

- When have you helped someone go through a sad time?
- Being forgiven can look like weakness. How is Jesus' death on the cross a powerful gift to the life of the church?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

Paul contrasts the strength and wisdom of the world with the strength and wisdom of God. What is most important is knowing "*Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles*" because it is "*the power of God and the wisdom of God*" (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). The Corinthians are fixated on their spiritual gifts and special wisdom, but that only divides the community. Paul wants to unite the community as the body of Christ in the world. Spiritual gifts are all based on the work of God, not on people's own spiritual powers. Therefore, Christians are not to get caught up on who has the "better" spiritual gifts. What does matter is to know that the uniqueness of the spiritual life is to see everything through the death and resurrection of Christ, which is the true wisdom and strength that gives faith, hope, and love to a world in need.

Discuss: How does seeing the world through the cross of Christ help you as a follower of Jesus?

Pray: God of wisdom and might, give us faith to see in the cross of Christ your healing and redeeming work in the world. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show love and hope to those who are hungry or homeless?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus calls his followers the "*salt of the earth and the light of the world*" (Matthew 5:13-14). When gathered with friends and family in your home, give a candle to each person. As a candle lighting ritual, light one another's candles in turn either by using a lighter or passing a flame from candle to candle. As each candle is lit, say: "***Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.***" (Matthew 5:16)



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