

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

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www.joyfulharvest.org

THIRD
Sunday
OF
LENT

*Do not come near!
Remove your sandals from your feet,
for the place where you stand is
holy ground.* Exodus 3:5

March 8th, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

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

Confession & Forgiveness

P: We come, our souls thirsting for God,
our spirits longing for love.

**C: We come to the One who supplies every need;
we come to the One who gives us living water.**

P: We come, with prayers in our hearts,
and with words too painful to speak.

**C: We come to the One who listens to our hearts,
who carries our suffering through eternity.**

P: We come, with our brokenness and loss,
with our hope to be made whole.

**C: We come to the One who knows all our secrets,
who brings peace to all of us - and to each of us.**

Gathering Songs: Come, Now is the time to Worship

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Songs: Your Grace is Enough

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-11

¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

² **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³ For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴ **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

6 Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

7 For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

8 "Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

9 There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

10 Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

11 Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'"

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

1 Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. **3** And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. **6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.....

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: **5** [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot 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: Softly and Tenderly

Prayers of Intercession

A: "Hear us, O God", ...C: **"Your mercy is great"**

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

Sharing of the Peace

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

Prayer After Communion

Sending

Sending Song: Today is the Day

Sending and Benediction

P: Let us go now, to meet all thirsting for God.

C: We will share the living water with everyone we meet.

P: Let us go now, to listen as Jesus does with us.

C: We will hear the stories and hearts of all who are considered voiceless by our world.

P: Let us go now, to bring the Spirit's wholeness to others.

C: We will bring peace and healing to the broken and lonely, even as they offer us hope and grace by their lives.

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. Believe 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.

Daily Devotionals with Pastor Ken Gibson @ 8:00am.

Pastor Ken has started doing daily devotionals on FaceBook live Monday-Friday 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!



Lenten Simple Suppers & Holden Evening Prayer:

Last three weeks: Wed. Mar. 11th thru Wed. Mar. 25th in the spirit of Lent (period of fasting & self-denial) we will be continuing our "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 Narthex.

Weekly Calendar

Tue. Mar 10	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Mar 10	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Mar 11	Simple Supper	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Mar 11	Holden Evening Prayer Service	6:30 p.m.
Thur. Mar 12	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Mar 15	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Mar 15	Faith Formation Class	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Wed. Mar 18	Simple Supper	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Mar 18	Holden Evening Prayer Service	6:30 p.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Sun. Mar 29th – **Palm Sunday Brunch**

Sat. Apr 11th – **Joyful Readers Book Club**

Sat. Apr 18th – **Painting/Tijuana Mission Fundraiser**

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MARCH 08, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT



Faith is formed through personal, trusted relationships.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well
Monday	Exodus 17:1-7	The Lord gives water from a rock
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-11	Right with God
Wednesday	John 3:16-21	God loves the world
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 2:5-12	Paul's relational ministry
Friday	Romans 12:9-21	Caring relationships
Saturday	Psalms 95	Call to worship
Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" **John 4:29 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, thank you for reaching out to me and to all your people with steadfast love and faithfulness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as you fed the people in the wilderness, we thank you for feeding us today. In the name of Jesus our Savior, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)



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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:

- What are some ways you have shared your faith and values with others?
- Who has introduced you to – or taught you about – Jesus? How did this happen?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 4:5-42.

Jesus meets with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, the same place where Jacob met Rachel more than a thousand years before. It is now the place where Jesus shows what it means that "God so loved the world" (John 3:16) by caring for a non-Jewish woman, someone who was alone and likely shunned by her own people. The woman is so impressed by Jesus and their conversation that she goes to her townspeople and says, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" (v. 29). The Samaritan woman does three things that are essential traits of evangelism: 1) she invites, "Come and see"; 2) she tells her own story of her encounter with Jesus, "I just met a man who . . ."; and 3) she wonders if this is the awaited Messiah, "He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" Her question in the original Greek suggests she really doesn't think so. Even so, the people come to believe that Jesus is the Savior. It is another biblical example that shows that faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships.

Discuss: How do you have conversations with others about Jesus?

Pray: **Merciful God, just as Jesus stopped to talk to the woman at the well, help me to stop, listen, and talk to others and be an example of your love for them. 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 reach out and show care to a stranger in your community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the third week in Lent, light three of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) is being introduced as a way to pray. This week represents "T", for Thanksgiving, meaning to express thanks and gratitude to God.

Pray: **Dear God, I am thankful for all that you have given me. I thank you for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



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