

Welcome to Worship at  
***Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church***

Growing Together for Christ

*Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor*

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[www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)



March 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2026	Fifth Sunday in Lent
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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: Creator of life:

**C: bring us light, we pray.**

P: Mourner of the dead:

**C: take away our grief, we pray.**

P: Refresher of dry lives:

**C: bind us to God forever, we pray.**

**Gathering Song:** Good, Good Father

#### 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.

P: 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.**

**Faith Song:** God Will Make a Way

## **Prayer of the Day**

### **Word**

#### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in,.....

A: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 130:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>**Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup>**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup>**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

#### **SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11**

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile

to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot,<sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.<sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL: John 11:1-45**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

P: <sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary...

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:** They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

**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](http://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:** Hymn of Promise/I Love You Lord

**Prayer After Communion**

**Sending**

**Sending and Benediction**

P: Now go forth with God's hope!

**C: We have put flesh on our faith and will go to serve others.**

P: Now go forth to fill others with Christ's Light!

**C: We will go to call others to new life, wiping away their tears.**

P: Now go forth with the steadfast love of the Spirit!

**C: We will go to share that hope for which all people long.**

**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 Song:** Everlasting God

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Announcements**

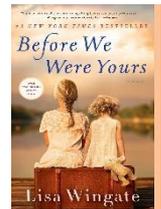
*If you are looking for a place to worship with your family, join us any Sunday at 9:00 am! Thank you for worshipping with us today.*



### **Lenten Simple Suppers & Holden Evening Prayer:**

Last two weeks: Wed. Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> and Wed. Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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, Apr 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a.m. They're reading "*Before We Were Yours*" by Lisa Wingate. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!





### **Feed My Starving Children Sat. Apr. 11th, 11:30-1:15pm.**

Help us pack meals for children who are less fortunate. This is a great opportunity to spend time with your family doing God's work. Since we are required to have a certain number of volunteers, please sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office at 847-497-4569. If you would like to ride share/car pool, please arrive at the Church no later than 10:15am as we will be leaving by 10:30am.

If you prefer you can go directly to the facility at 742 E Park Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048. Please arrive at the facility by 11:15am. For more information see Trudy Moriarty. No experience necessary!!!

### **Palm Sunday Brunch! Sun. Mar 29 @ 10:30 a.m.**

Since Easter can be so overwhelming with church and family get togethers, we will be celebrating with a brunch on Palm Sunday. Bring your favorite "Easter" dish to share. Please sign up on the board in the Narthex.



### **Weekly Calendar**

Mon-Thurs	<b>Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken</b>	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Mar 24	<b>Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast</b>	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Mar 24	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Mar 25	<b>LAST - Simple Supper</b>	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Mar 25	<b>LAST - Holden Evening Prayer Service</b>	6:30 p.m.
Thur. Mar 26	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Mar 29	<b>Palm Sunday Worship</b>	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Mar 29	<b>NO - Faith Formation Class</b>	10:30 a.m.

### **Upcoming Events**

Thur. Apr 02	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	7:00 p.m.
Fri. Apr 03	<b>Good Friday Service</b>	7:00 p.m.
Sun. Apr 05	<b>Easter Sunday Service</b>	10:30 a.m.-noon

### **Save The Date!**

*Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.*

Sat. Apr 11<sup>th</sup> – **Joyful Readers Book Club**

Sat. Apr 11<sup>th</sup> – **Feed My Starving Children**

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**MARCH 22, 2026  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN LENT**



*Jesus' resurrection means new life now.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 11:1-45</b>	<b>The raising of Lazarus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 37:1-14</b>	<b>Valley of dry bones</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 8:6-11</b>	<b>Life in the Spirit</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Romans 8:12-17</b>	<b>Wonderful future of God's people</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Peter 1:1-9</b>	<b>A real reason for hope</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Colossians 3:12-17</b>	<b>New life in Christ</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 130</b>	<b>Trusting the Lord in times of trouble</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 21:1-11</b>	<b>Jesus enters Jerusalem</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* **John 11:25-26 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God of life and hope, we thank you for the promise of the resurrection and the power it brings to us each day through Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for the strength we receive through this food and the faith and hope we receive through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God free you from all burdens and give you peace.



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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 is something you are looking forward to do in the future?
- How does the promise of Jesus' resurrection influence your life today?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* John 11:1-45.

With the story of the raising of Lazarus, Jesus makes it clear that he is not only the source of “*the resurrection on the last day*” (v. 24), but the source of life now. Jesus does not just say he is the resurrection. He says, “*I am the resurrection and the life*” (v. 25). In this story we gain understanding of what it means that Jesus is the “*Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world*” (v. 27). The future hope of the resurrection is so important and so real that it changes our life in the present. Even though Jesus weeps with his friends, grief does not control his—or our—life. Our lives are to be freed from the daily powers of sin, fear, and death. “*Unbind him and let him go*” (v. 44) is the message for us, too. Jesus comes to us when our burdens are many, to unbind us and set us free. Jesus says, “[E]veryone who lives and believes in me will never die” (v. 26).

*Discuss:* How does faith in Jesus impact your priorities, your values, your relationships?

*Pray:* **God of resurrection promise, remind us of the new life we are given each day 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 or support someone who is grieving a loss?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the fifth week in Lent, light five of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) has been introduced as a way to pray. This week use this acronym (**ACTS**) as a guide for prayer.

*Pray:* **Dear God, I praise you for . . . , forgive me for . . . , I thank you for . . . , I pray for (name of people or situations) . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



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