

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



March 29, 2026	Palm/Passion Sunday
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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!

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Traditionally, Palm Sunday was commemorated in worship as a day of pomp and circumstance, celebrating a conquering king's triumphant entry into the capitol. The focus of the day was on waving palm branches and singing Hosannas. We will still wave branches and sing Hosannas, but the intention of worship today is to draw us into and make us participants in the story of Jesus' last days. We call this story the "Passion of Jesus" as a reminder of the extremes Jesus endured to express the intensity of God's passionate love for us.

GATHERING

PROCESSION OF PALMS

(Congregation gathers in Narthex with palms.)

Processional Song: Alabaré

(You are invited to process with your palm around the sanctuary during the processional song.)

Call to Worship

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna to the Son of David.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Mercifully assist us,

C: O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering Song: Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at.....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

Tessa Ancona

BLESSING OF THE PALMS - *(you are invited to raise your palm frond)*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

P: Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: The Passion of our Lord According to Matthew 26:1-27:66

(Dramatic Reading)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew. When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples,

Jesus: You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.

Pastor: Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said,

People: Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.

Pastor: Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said,

People: Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.

Pastor: But Jesus, aware of this, said to them,

Jesus: Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

Pastor: Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

Judas: What will you give me if I betray him to you?

Pastor: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

People: **Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?**

Pastor: He said,

Jesus: Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."

Pastor: So the disciples did as Jesus directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

Pastor: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

People: **Surely not I, Lord?**

Pastor: He answered,

Jesus: The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Pastor: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas: Surely not I, Rabbi?

Pastor: Jesus replied,

Jesus: You have said so.

Pastor: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus: Take, eat; this is my body.

Pastor: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Pastor: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Pastor: Peter said to him,

Peter: Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

Pastor: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Pastor: Peter said to him,

Peter: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Pastor: And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

Jesus: Sit here while I go over there and pray.

Pastor: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

Jesus: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

Pastor: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want

Pastor: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Pastor: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

Pastor: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Pastor: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

Pastor: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Judas: Greetings, Rabbi!

Pastor: Then Judas kissed him. Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Friend, do what you are here to do.

Pastor: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen this way?

Pastor: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.

Pastor: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

Witness: This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days."

Pastor: The high priest stood up and said,

High Priest: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Pastor: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

High Priest: I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.

Pastor: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Pastor: The high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest: He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

Pastor: They answered,

People: He deserves death.

Pastor: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him saying,

People: Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

Pastor: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

Servant: You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

Pastor: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

Peter: I do not know what you are talking about.

Pastor: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

Servant: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

Pastor: Again he denied it with an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man.

Pastor: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

People: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

Pastor: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man!

Pastor: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said; "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief Priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

Judas: I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

Pastor: But they said,

People: What is that to us? See to it yourself.

Pastor: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

People: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.

Pastor: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me." Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Pastor: Jesus said,

Jesus: You say so.

Pastor: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Pastor: But he gave them no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Pastor: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Pilate: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Pastor: And they said,

People: Barabbas.

Pastor: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Then what should I do with Jesus who is call the Messiah?

Pastor: All of them said,

People: Let him be crucified!

Pastor: Then he asked,

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Pastor: But they shouted all the more,

People: Let him be crucified!

Pastor: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Pilate: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

Pastor: Then the people as a whole answered,

People: His blood be on us and on our children!

Pastor: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

People: Hail, King of the Jews!

Pastor: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

People: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the son of God, come down from the cross.

Pastor: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

People: He saved other; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."

Pastor: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

Pastor: That is “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

People: This man is calling for Elijah.

Pastor: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

People: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Pastor: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

People: Truly this man was God’s Son!

Pastor: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

People: Sir, we remember what that imposter said while he was still alive, “After three days I will rise again.” Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, “He has been raised from the dead,” and the last deception would be worse than the first.

Pastor: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can

Pastor: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Pastor: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day: In Christ Alone

Prayers of Intercession

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

Sharing of the Peace

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: Come Let Us Worship
Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

Prayer After Communion

Sending and Benediction

P: As you leave this place, go as God's children:

C: we will go to serve our family and neighbors.

P: Go as followers of Christ:

C: we will find the broken around us and bring them healing.

P: Go as those strong in the Spirit:

C: we will be willing to humble ourselves for those wearied by life.

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: Go to Dark Gethsemane

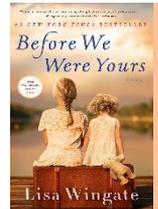
P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

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.

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 11th 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!!!



Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Mar 31	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Mar 31	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Apr 02	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Apr 02	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 p.m.
Fri. Apr 03	Good Friday Service	7:00 p.m.
Sun. Apr 05	Easter Sunday Service	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Apr 05	NO - Faith Formation Class	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sat. Apr 11	Joyful Readers	9:00 a.m.
Sat. Apr 11	Feed My Starving Children	11:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Luminaria Sales for Memorial Day – TBD

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HOLY WEEK

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark



1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember, we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're really old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to the critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs, the titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow.

