

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

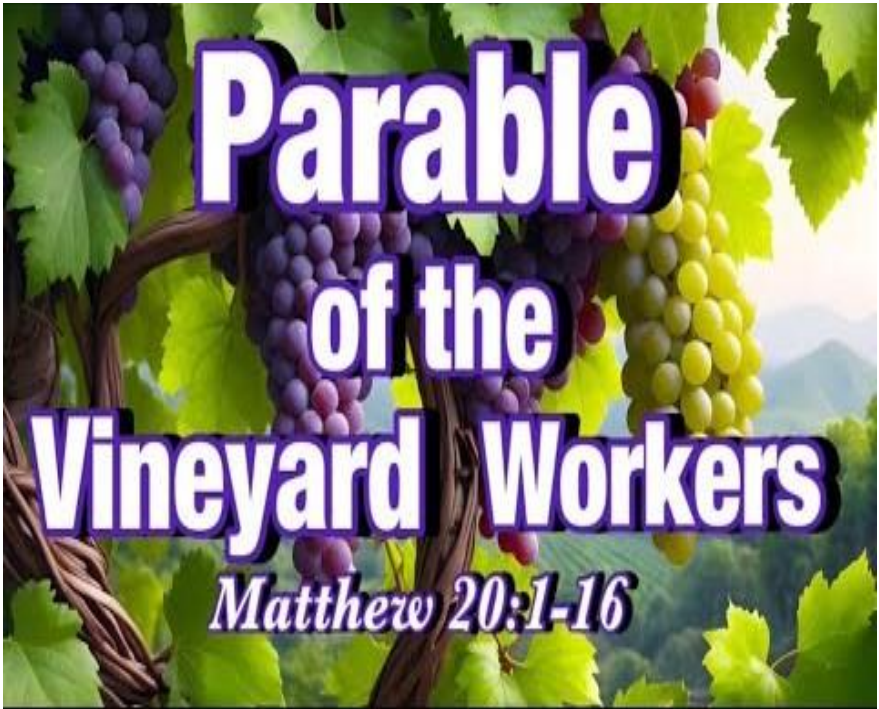
Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

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5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051

www.joyfulharvest.org



Sept 20 th , 2026	17 th Sunday after Pentecost
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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: We come to praise our God, whose steadfast love is always with us.

C: God does not stand by idly, but fills us with grace to share.

P: We are here to praise Jesus, who chooses to be gracious with all.

C: Jesus does not stand by idly, but brings justice to all treated unfairly.

P: In these moments, we will praise the Spirit, who is always at our side.

C: The Spirit is with us now and always, so we may live as faithful people.

Opening Song: Come Just as You Are

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us
from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to
others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us
to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way
of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no
condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Faith Song: Mighty to Save

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country?

That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and

continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you.....

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a.....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

Pastor Ken Gibson

Sermon

Pastor Ken Gibson

Hymn of the Day: Let Justice Flow Like Streams (ELW #717)

Prayers of Intercession

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

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. 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 Songs: Communion Song/I Love You Lord

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: Now go to be with those forgotten by the world.

C: We will share God's constant love with everyone.

P: Now go to be generous with those around you as well as those far away.

C: We will share Jesus' justice and hope with all who need it.

P: Now go to live as faithful people.

C: We will join the Spirit in standing side by side with those who are lonely and afraid.

Sending Song: Grace Like Rain

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.

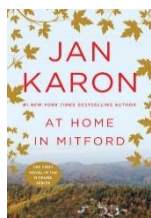
C: Amen

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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 is back! Sat. Sept 26th @ 9:00 a.m.:

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, Sept 26th @ 9:00a.m. They're reading **"At Home In Mitford"** by Jan Karon. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!

Chicken/Pulled Pork Corn Roast! Sat. Oct. 3rd @ 4-6 p.m.

We invite you to an "all you can eat" feast of Chicken, pulled pork and corn on the cob. There will be a 50/50 raffle. If interested, please sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. Drinks will be available for \$1.00 each. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and can be purchased ahead of time or at the door. **See Ray for your tickets!**



Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Sep 22	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Sep 22	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Sep 23	Yoga with Robin	4:00-5:00 p.m.
Wed. Sep 24	Food Pantry Meeting @ JHC	12:00-1:00 p.m.
Thur. Sep 24	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Sep 26	Joyful Readers Book Club	9:00-10:00 a.m.
Sun. Sep 27	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Sep 27	Faith Formation Class	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sat. Sep 26	Yoga with Robin	10:00-11:00 a.m.
Sat. Oct 03	Chicken & Corn Roast	4:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Oct 04	Giving Closet	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Nov 07 – Veterans Spaghetti Dinner – Tentative

Nov 28 – Hanging of the Greens

Nov 29 – 5th Annual Soundtrack of Christmas

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Fall is Here!

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God’s generosity is amazing!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	Philippians 1:21-30	What life means to Paul
Wednesday	Exodus 16:9-21	Bread from heaven
Thursday	Psalms 105:37-45	God’s faithfulness to Israel
Friday	Romans 2:1-11	God’s judgement is fair
Saturday	Psalms 145:1-8	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 145:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we thank you that you care for all, especially those who feel judged or ignored, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of grace and mercy, we thank you for your care for us that gives us food from your fruitful creation. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God’s grace be a blessing to you each day.



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 has someone surprised you with an act of kindness?
- In Matthew 20:1-16, Jesus told a parable about some vineyard workers. The ones hired last were paid the same as the ones hired first. Do you think this is fair? Why or why not?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Matthew 20:1-16.

Frankly, we don't really like God's justice. It's too supportive of people unlike us! Like Jonah, we don't want a God who is slow to anger and full of steadfast love for people we don't think deserve it, especially those we would consider our enemies. That is why Jonah ran away from God. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrians who had destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. God told Jonah to preach repentance to the Ninevites. Jonah was afraid to do this because he knew of God's love and mercy, something he did not want showered upon his enemies. Jonah was right; it happened, and it angered him. It is like Jesus' parable of the generous landowner where it seems so wrong for people who work in the fields all day to get the same wage as those who started at the end of the day. We tend to think that we deserve God's grace more than others, but God's grace is truly undeserved.

Discuss: How do you respond when someone you believe is undeserving but treated the same as someone who works hard and deserves recognition?

Pray: **Gracious and merciful God, give me faith to love your generosity for all people, especially those who are different from me. In Jesus' name, 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 show kindness to someone you feel has not been treated fairly?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



September 21st is the day when the Christian church remembers the Apostle Matthew, one of Jesus' original twelve disciples (most of the Gospel readings for this year are from Matthew's Gospel). One day, while seated at his table of books and money, Jesus looked at Matthew and said two words: *"Follow me."* This was all that was needed to make Matthew, a tax collector, rise and leave behind his pieces of silver to follow Christ. What does it take for someone to follow Jesus? Write a list of words that describe someone who follows Jesus. Take a moment to read through the list.

Pray: **Lord, we give thanks for Matthew, the tax collector and disciple; help me to open my heart and mind to understand what it means to follow you. Amen.**



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