

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

Office: 847-497-4JOY (4569) – Cell: 815-861-9554

5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051

www.joyfulharvest.org



Sept 27th, 2026	18th Sunday after Pentecost
-----------------------------------	---

**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, so God can teach us goodness and love for each person.

C: We will complete God's love by having the same compassion as God.

P: We come, so Jesus can lead us into lives of service and obedience.

C: We will complete Jesus' hopes by putting others before ourselves.

P: We come, so the Spirit can help us to empty ourselves
for God and those around us.

C: We will complete the Spirit's peace by sharing our lives with others.

Opening Song: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

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: Day By Day

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all

lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look

not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of...

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

Tessa Acona

Sermon

Pastor Ken Gibson

Hymn of the Day: Open the Eyes of My Heart

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: Our Father/Love Has Come

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: Let us have the same mind as God.

C: We will see each person as God's child.

P: Let us have the same justice as Jesus.

C: We will stand with each person who struggles.

P: Let us have the same hope as the Spirit.

C: We will put others before us in all we do.

Sending Song: Let There Be Peace on Earth

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.



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 29	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Sep 29	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed.Sep 30	Yoga with Robin	4:00-5:00 p.m.
Thur.Oct 01	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Oct 03	Chicken & Corn Roast	4:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Oct 04	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Oct 04	NO - Faith Formation Class	10:30 a.m.
Sun. Oct 04	Giving Closet	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Sun. Oct 11	Pastor Appreciation Day	All Day
Sun. Oct 25	Reformation Sunday – Wear “RED”	9:00 a.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

- Nov 07 – **Veterans Spaghetti Dinner**
- Nov 15 – **Thanksgiving Potluck – after worship**
- Nov 25 – **Thanksgiving Eve Service w/pie fest**
- Nov 28 – **Hanging of the Greens**
- Nov 29 – **5th Annual Soundtrack of Christmas**

Songs are reproduced, projected, and streamed with permission under CCLI #1029838.

Portions of the liturgy are Copyright © Thom M. Shuman 2017

Portions of the liturgy are copyright © Augsburg Fortress 2020

Portions of the liturgy are copyright © Joyful Harvest Church, ELCA 2020

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God instructs, guides, and protects us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons
Monday	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	God’s ways are fair
Tuesday	Philippians 2:1-13	Christ shows us humility
Wednesday	Proverbs 4:20-27	Keep to the right path
Thursday	Psalms 78:1-8	What God has done
Friday	James 1:19-27	Hearing and doing God’s word
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-9	Prayer for guidance and help
Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[W]ork out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
Philippians 2:12b-13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, teach us to know your ways and to do them with humility and compassion for all that you have created through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 25:4)

Mealtime Prayer:

Good and gracious God, we thank you for providing for our every need, including the gift of this food; we pray through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God guide you to love and serve humbly.



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:

- Do you ask for help when making decisions? Why or why not?
- How does reading the Bible and having caring conversations with other believers help guide your life?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Philippians 2:1-13.

The Apostle Paul speaks to the church at Philippi and encourages the people to live with others with humility. He uses Christ as our model for this way of life as Christ Jesus took on our human existence and *“humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death”* (v. 8). With this as a guide, Paul exhorts believers to pursue the Christian life because it matters to others, to the world, and to God. Knowing how hard it is to live this life faithfully, he states, *“work out your salvation in fear and trembling”* (v. 12b). It is not fear, however, that prevents us from acting. It is a sense of awe and reverence that frees us to live and act because God is with us, behind, and in front of us in both our actions and our very desire to do the will of God. It can be overwhelming to wonder how to live as a Christian. Paul encourages us to go forth with humility to love others and trust God, knowing that God is present in our lives to shape our very thoughts and actions.

Discuss: Who do you know that role models the Christian life of humility? What is an example you can give about the person?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, guide our days and our deeds in the peace of Christ. 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 someone who is struggling to choose the right thing to do?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Lifting our hands is one way to show praise to God. In the Old Testament there are people (like Leah and Moses) who lift their hands in praise to God. This is an ancient pose of prayer and a motion used to open a person to receiving God's blessing. Think or talk about when and how you pray (kneeling, folded hands, etc.). Then lift your hands and pray: ***“To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.”*** Amen. (Psalm 25:1-2a)



**5050 N Johnsburg Road
Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org
(847) 497-4569**