

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church
Growing Together for Christ
Rev. Rebecca Gordon, Interim Pastor – 847-497-4JOY (4569)
5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org



April 7th, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

We worship in-person and on-line through Zoom and Facebook. There will be a link on our website to watch the live-stream on Facebook!
Stay safe and God bless!

Gathering

Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

Call to Worship

A: The Word of life spoke:

C: so we could hear the 'Alleluias!' of the angels.

A: The Word of life reached out:

C: so we could touch the hope which heals us.

A: The Word of life walked out of death's dread tomb:

C: so we could follow him into life forever.

Children's Message & Raising the Alleluias

Gathering Songs:

That's Why We Praise Him

You Are Mighty

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (Martin Luther, 1529)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

PSALM: Psalm 133:1-3

¹How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and

truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor Rebecca Gordon

Prayers of Intercession

A: "God of Grace",**C: "hear our prayer"**

Offering: Friends, the giving of our offerings are a true act of Worship, given freely to share God's love through this congregation. You may come forward to put your gift in the offering plate, send your gifts to the church at: **5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051** or give online at www.joyfulharvest.org

Offering Song: I've Got No Doubt

Offering Prayer

Meal

Confession & Forgiveness

P: How often have we heard the good news of forgiveness and restoration? Yet, we are still reluctant to believe. God offers us new life, yet we are afraid to let go of the old. Let us confess our doubts and fears to the One who waits to make us whole.

C: We use a lot of words, Gracious God, but do little to turn them into deeds. Instead of being of one heart and soul, we choose sides and form

groups of folks just like us. Blessed with great grace, we have trouble sharing it with those who need it the most. Forgive us, God of love. Forgive us, as we step out of our shadows into your light. Restore us, as we reveal our brokenness. Hear us, as we proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and our God.

(Silence is kept)

P: This is the good news we have to declare: God leads us out of the shadows to walk in the light of Christ.

C: This is the word we have heard: our faithful God forgives our sins and raises us to new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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: Gratitude

Prayer After Communion

Sending

Sending Song: Church On Fire

Sending and Benediction

P: Go now to walk in God's light.

C: We will tell of what we have seen in the glory of creation and in the goodness of those who love us.

P: Go now to serve in Christ's light.

C: We will share what we have heard in the parables about grace and in the laughter of little children.

P: Go now to live in the Spirit's light.

C: We will touch the broken places with healing, we will stare down injustice until it changes its ways.

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: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

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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.

Feed My Starving Children! Our next event is scheduled for Sat., May 4th^h, from 11:30am-1:15pm. We have space for 10 helpers. Please sign up in the Narthex or see Trudy Moriarty for more information. No experience necessary!!!

First Wednesday Fellowship (May 1st) - (FWF) May's presentation is "An Illinois Humanities Council Road Scholar Program - Prince Maximilian and Karl Bodner: Touring the Wilderness of North America". Storyteller and author Brian "Fox" Ellis steps into the shoes of Prince Maximilian allowing the audience to step back in time. Blending history, science, art and cultural anthropology, the Prince gives us a unique view of America as he saw it in the early 1830's. Much of the text for this performance comes directly from his journals.

Be part of Worship! Help out by reading, greeting or assisting in communion! There is a sign-up sheet for Sunday worship on the Welcome Table. No experience necessary!!!

Rides Needed! Volunteers are needed to provide people with rides to church on Sundays and special church events. Please contact Bruce Harmel (815) 670-7103 for more information.

St. Jude Children's Ranch & Cross Keys Village Stampers: We will **NO** longer be collecting cards & used stamps. Juanita has decided to retire. We want to thank her for all her hard work on this meaningful project!

Donate for Tijuana Mission Project! - Toys & school supplies! When our volunteers go to Tijuana, they would like to take some items that the kids can use. *If you see a backpack on sale, we can fill it with school supplies. Soccer balls or footballs can be deflated, jump ropes, small toys, T-shirts for kids would be good, too.* There is a box in the narthex for donations. **See Ray Pratscher or Theresa Ancona for info.**

Men's Group: We meet on **Saturday mornings at 7 a.m.** at the church for fellowship and learning more about God's call on our lives. All men are invited to attend.

Joyful Readers Book Club: Do you like to read & are 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 April 27th at 9:00 a.m. They're reading "*The Shack*" by William Paul Young. Contact Kim DuBois for more info! *(There will be NO club meeting in March!)*



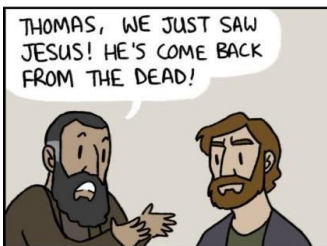
Donate to help the ministries of Joyful Harvest! Scan the QR code on the left with your mobile device or visit the giving kiosk in the narthex. You'll go to our online giving page to set up a one-time or recurring gift through your debit/credit card processed through PayPal. Your generous gift will support our many outreach ministries. *Thank you for making so much possible!*

Weekly Calendar

Tue. Apr 09	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Apr 09	Food Pantry Service Opportunity (Grace Luth)	4:00-6:30 p.m.
Tue. Apr 09	Call Committee	1:00-2:30 p.m.
Wed. Apr 10	Finance Team Meeting	4:00-5:00 p.m.
Thur. Apr 11	Food Pantry Service Opportunity (Grace Luth)	4:00-6:30 p.m.
Sat. Apr 13	Men's Group	7:00-9:30 a.m.
Sat. Apr 13	Blood Drive	8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sun. Apr 14	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Mon. Apr 15	Boy Scouts	6:30 p.m.
Mon. Apr 15	Youth Fun Night	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sat. Apr 20	Birdhouse Painting	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Sun. Apr 21	Giving Closet of McHenry	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Tue. Apr 23	Council Meeting	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sat. Apr 27	Joyful Readers	9:00-10:00 a.m.



APRIL 07, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



The risen Jesus gives us peace.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1–2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	John 14:23-31	Jesus speaks of peace
Thursday	Romans 5:1-11	We have peace with God
Friday	Philippians 4:4-9	The God of peace be with you
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." **John 20:21 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Risen Christ, replace our worries with peace, our fears with courage, and our unbelief with faith. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Risen Lord Jesus, you give us food for the body and peace for the soul. May faith be our way and love be our goal. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing that you have life in his name. (John 20:31)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Do most of us awake each day to a sense of peace or worry? Why do you think that is? How do you generally begin each day?
- Martin Luther said that the judgement of the law is the “constant guest” in our lives. How do we overcome that sense of self-doubt and judgement?
- How does the resurrection make a difference in your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 1:1–2:2.

Christianity is often described—and challenged—as primarily a set of beliefs, but in John 20:30-31 the focus is on a way of life, “that you may have life in his name.” In 1 John 1 there is a wonderful openness to an honest look at our lives; we all sin. That is not a dark view of the world. It presents a freedom not to be afraid or ashamed of our lives but to see beyond our brokenness to the power of forgiveness that creates us anew each day to start again in peace. How does that sense of Christianity and the power of the resurrection change everything? For those who don’t have this faith or hope, what are they missing? After a time for reflection, recite the following: (1 John 1:8-9) “if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **Pray: Dear Risen Christ, replace our worries with peace, our fears with courage, and our unbelief with faith. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Acts 4:32-35, life in the community that trusts the power of the resurrection has a changed understanding of property and how we care for each other. Finally, everything is God’s more than it is “mine” to use for my own pleasure. This is not an endorsement of an economic system. It is a confession of faith and a commitment to love the neighbor as oneself. Rethink everything you own as a loan from God to love others. How might that influence your actions today?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In what ways can you share the peace with others and in your home or when visiting friends? It can be a handshake, hug, or a high five. There is a long history of Christians sharing a sign of peace with one another in public worship as a physical expression of the peace God gives to us through Jesus. It connects directly to Jesus greeting his disciples in the resurrection. That public greeting also extends to personal greetings. Share the sign of peace: **“The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you.”**



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