

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

**Growing Together for Christ**

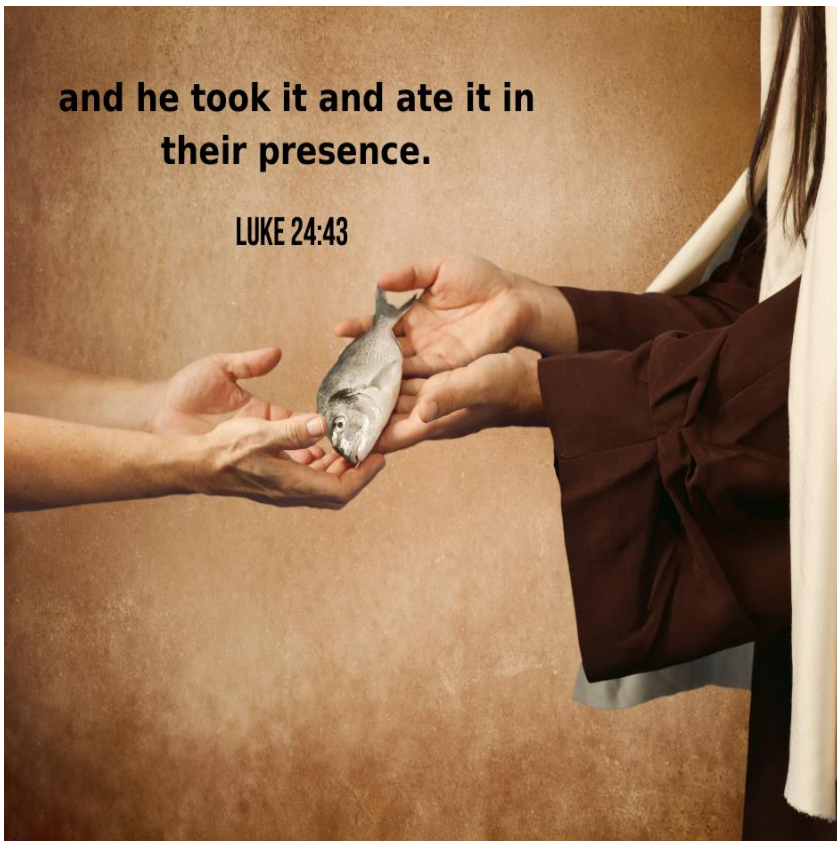
**Rev. Rebecca Gordon, Interim Pastor – 847-497-4JOY (4569)**

**5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051**

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

**and he took it and ate it in  
their presence.**

**LUKE 24:43**



**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Third 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: When fear and doubts stroll through our doors:

**C: God stands beside us, whispering of peace.**

A: When we toss and turn late at night:

**C: God sits by our beds, singing lullabies of love.**

A: When we stumble through the shadows of sin:

**C: God illuminates the paths of goodness and joy.**

**Gathering Songs:** Crown Him with Many Crowns (Matthew Bridges, 1851)

Behold The Lamb

Choir Anthem - I Will Follow Him (from Sister Act)

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

#### Prayer of the Day

#### Word

**FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19**

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. <sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

**PSALM: Psalm 4:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>"**You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

<sup>4</sup>**Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

**<sup>6</sup>Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?” Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

**<sup>8</sup>In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. <sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

**GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

P: <sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.”....

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

**Offering Song:** Jesus Friend of Sinners

**Offering Prayer**

**Meal**

## **Confession & Forgiveness**

P: If only our actions mirrored our words, if only our hands were mentored by our hearts, if we actually walked the talk - we would follow Jesus. But too often, it is our silence, our doubts, our fears which tell others who we truly are. Let us confess to God how we have not been as faithful as we hope, as we pray, saying,

**C: God of empty tombs: Peter speaks with power and clarity of his faith, while we remain silent. The psalmist speaks of trusting in you, while our doubts overwhelm us. Jesus is ready to come and grace us with peace, but our fears keep our hearts shuttered and locked.**

**God of full hearts: your love can change us from scared people to children of grace. You can weed doubts from our hearts and plant seeds of joy in their place. You can silence the panic of our souls with the peace Jesus offers to each of us. Transform us into Easter people, through the power of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior.**

*(Silence is kept)*

P: What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers - to us! We really are God's people - that is exactly who we are!

**C: We are God's children - those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **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:** Who Am I?

### **Prayer After Communion**

#### **Sending**

**Sending Song:** Take My Life

## **Sending and Benediction**

P: Go now, to be God's children in the world.

**C: We will open our minds to understand the needs around us.**

P: Go now, to be Christ's servants in the world.

**C: We will open our hands to share our blessings with all.**

P: Go now, to be the Spirit's hope for the world.

**C: We will open our hearts to welcome those who have no one to care for them.**

## **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.*

**Birdhouse Painting Contest:** Come join us on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00pm and decorate your birdhouse to enter the contest. Tickets are \$25.00 and include a hand made wooden birdhouse and all the supplies to decorate with. All proceeds go to the Tijuana mission. See Ray Pratscher or Mike Morley for tickets!

**Feed My Starving Children!** Our next event is scheduled for Sat., May 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>)** - (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.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> 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

Mon. Apr 15	<b>Boy Scouts</b>	6:30 p.m.
Mon. Apr 15	<b>Youth Fun Night</b>	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Tue. Apr 16	<b>Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast</b>	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Apr 16	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b> (Grace Luth)	4:00-6:30 p.m.
Thur. Apr 18	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b> (Grace Luth)	4:00-6:30 p.m.
Sat. Apr 20	<b>Men's Group</b>	7:00-9:30 a.m.
Sat. Apr 20	<b>Birdhouse Painting</b>	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Sun. Apr 21	<b>Sunday Worship</b>	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Apr 21	<b>Giving Closet of McHenry</b>	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

### Upcoming Events

Mon. Apr 22	<b>Boy Scouts</b>	6:30 p.m.
Tue. Apr 23	<b>Council Meeting</b>	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sat. Apr 27	<b>Joyful Readers</b>	9:00-10:00 a.m.
Wed. May 01	<b>First Wednesday Fellowship</b>	12:30-2:00 p.m.
Sat. May 04	<b>Feed My Starving Children</b>	11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

**APRIL 14, 2024**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**



*The risen Jesus sends us out to witness.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 24:36b-48</b>	<b>Jesus appears to his disciples</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 3:12-19</b>	<b>Peter speaks in the temple</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 John 3:1-7</b>	<b>Children of God</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Acts 1:1-11</b>	<b>You will be my witnesses</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Acts 10:34-43</b>	<b>The witness of the apostles</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Isaiah 35:3-9</b>	<b>God changes everything</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 4</b>	<b>An evening prayer</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 10:11-18</b>	<b>The Good Shepherd</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

“Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” **Luke 24:46-48** (NRSV)

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, open our minds to understand the Scriptures and our mouths to speak of you. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God bless our food, God guide our ways, God give us strength to declare your praise. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the light of God’s face shine on you and be gracious to you. (Psalm 4:1,6)

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## **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- Tell about an amazing event you saw or heard about.
- Who first told you about Jesus? Who and what has helped you learn about him?
- Jesus said that his disciples would be “witnesses” for him (Luke 24:48). In what ways are you a witness for Jesus to others?

## **DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Luke 24:36b-48.

When his followers saw the risen Lord, they were filled with joy but also disbelief and still questioned how this could be (v. 41). Jesus called these joyful and questioning followers to be his witnesses and to tell others of the power of repentance and forgiveness in Jesus’ name (v. 47). Even those who are followers need support and encouragement in their faith in the risen Lord Jesus. Talk with others about how the resurrection of Jesus creates a new way of life for us, one that is renewed daily through God’s forgiveness. In your prayers this week, pray for others that they may come to know the risen Jesus or that their faith may be strengthened to deal with disbelief and questions of faith. *Pray:* The Lord’s Prayer.

## **SERVICE**

The Great Commandment to love God and to love your neighbor relates directly to the Great Commission to tell the good news of Jesus to others. Being a witness of Jesus’ saving work is an essential act of love of the body of Christ, the church. Be open to how the Holy Spirit can use you as a witness to others. This week pray for opportunities to be a witness to Jesus empowered by the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49).

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Psalm 4:8 states, “In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.” The end of the day is a good time to slow down, reflect on the day, and focus on God’s place at the center of our lives. Rituals that help us do this can have a powerful “witnessing” influence in our home lives. Consider incorporating these ideas into your bedtime routine: Read a Bible passage or a storybook Bible. Give a blessing to someone. Take time for prayer and meditation, including sitting in silence. Sing or pray a hymn. Review the day to wonder how God was present in your up and down moments.



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Johnsburg, IL 60051  
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(847) 497-4569**