



Then
he
opened
their
minds
to
understand
the
Scriptures.

Luke 24:45

*First Lutheran Church
Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873*

*Saturday, April 17, 2021
With readings for the 3rd Sunday of Easter*

First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First

Saturday, April 17, 2021

(with scripture readings for the Third Sunday of Easter)

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshiping with us today! We hope that the service will be a joy and blessing to you.

THE SERVICE BEGINS

P We begin this service IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER:

C O Mighty God, you raised your Son from the grave on the third day, defeating the power of death forever!

P AND OF THE SON:

C O Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior, we praise you for your glorious Resurrection victory, and, like the disciple Thomas, we confess you as our Lord and God!

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C O Spirit of power and might, guide us by your Word, that we may know the Lord, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings.

All: AMEN!

OPENING SONG: “Children of the Heavenly Father”

vv. 1-4 **LBW 474**

WE CONFESS

P Let us confess our sins, and hear the forgiveness of God.

C Like the apostle Peter, O Lord, our faith has sometimes wavered. There are days when we confess by our words and our lives that “You are the Christ, the son of the living God!” There are days when we are ready to walk on water with you. But there have also been days when we have denied you by our words and our lives. Forgive us, Lord! Restore us to fellowship with you and one another!

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P When Jesus Christ arose triumphant from the grave, he did not come back to take revenge on those who had persecuted him, nor on those who had disappointed him. He came to restore them. To the disciples, huddled together in a locked room, He came and said, “Peace be with you.” To the people of Jerusalem, he sent his apostles with a message of mercy and forgiveness. To Peter, who had denied Him three times, He gave the chance

to confess Him three times. And He restored Peter to his call as a servant and apostle in His kingdom, saying to him, "Feed my lambs." These same words of restoration are for you! All your sins are forgiven. Come, be an apostle in Christ's kingdom! His peace be with you! **C** And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST READING:

Acts 3:11-21

¹¹While {the lame man who had been healed} clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name — by faith in his name — has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. ¹⁷And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

P The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 4 (Read responsively by whole verse)

p.216

SECOND READING:

1 John 3:1-7

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we

are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. ⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

P The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-49

³⁶As {the disciples} were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

“WITNESSING TO CHRIST IN OUR TIME”

SONG: “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

vv. 1-2 **LBW 389**

STATEMENT OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

LBW p.64

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, open our eyes that we might see your power and glory. Encourage us to be helpers to the physically or spiritually blind, so all might come to see the goodness of your love. Help us all to see the love of God for us in Christ Jesus. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Holy God, you work miracles every day. Sometimes those miracles are profound and defy logic and other times they are simple answers to prayers expressed in faith. Give us better understanding of your ways so we would see the every-day-miracles you perform around us. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit on the Church of Christ which is his precious bride. Give to your people the will to follow the Good Shepherd in word and deed, acting in kindness and trusting in his mercy in our lives and in the life of the church. Send us out into the world you love to make disciples of all nations. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, there are so many people around the world who are suffering from disease, hunger, poverty, or attacks from an enemy. Grant us strength and courage in the face of such trials. Give us hope in our hearts and let us pass that hope on for the stricken and dejected. [We pray especially for ...] *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

OFFERING

WE PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts! **C** We lift them up to the Lord!

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p.71

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

LBW p.74

THE BENEDICTION

P When Jesus instituted Holy Communion at the Last Supper before his crucifixion, He promised His disciples that one day they would again feast together in the kingdom of heaven.

C Dear Lord, keep us steadfast in faith until that day!

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

ALL Amen.

CLOSING SONG: "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

vv. 3-4 **LBW 389**

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord! **C** Thanks be to God!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are given in memory of Debra Nolf, by Bob & Lisa Coyle

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

Interim Pastor: Phil Gronbach (815) 441-4272(c)

Secretary: Dianna Wittwer (815)378-6654(c)

Pianist: Jill Vodden

Hosts: Vernon & Jane Johnson

Attendance Last Saturday: 4/10: 14

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

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secretary@kirklandflc.org

Offering Counters: Mary Loomis & Donna Koehnke

Last Sunday: 4/11: 31

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Jill Vodden 4/17

Eli Ash 4/20/13

Brayden Chastain 4/23/15

Marti Valasek 4/19

Scott Schaben 4/21

Rosalie Warren 4/23

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

Herb & Dolores Plote 4/24/54

Burt & Pamela Andrews 4/24/99

FACE MASKS

Starting Sunday, April 18th, seating will be as follows:

Reserve the FIRST pews on either side of the aisle for the Lay reader and acolyte and their families.

If you wear a face mask throughout the service, please sit on the right side (Pulpit side) of the church.

If you are without a face mask during worship, sit on the left side (Podium side) of the church.

Everyone, please wear your mask upon entering and exiting the church.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CAKE RECEPTION

Please join us tomorrow in the Fellowship Hall after Worship service for a cake reception to honor all of our volunteers. We appreciate each and every one of you. There are so many things that are done without recognition and today we want to “Thank you” for all you have been doing.

Sunday 4/18: Please join us in the fellowship hall after service for a cake reception, honoring all of our volunteers.

Monday 4/19: Food Truck Delivery 9:30am.

Tuesday 4/20: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; distr., 12-2pm.

Thursday 4/22: Wittenberg Door Pastor's Fellowship here at 10am.; Confirmation Class, 4pm.

Saturday 4/24: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 4/25: Worship Service, 9am.

PARISH CONCERNS

Please keep in your daily prayers all people in need, including those mentioned here:

- Louie Mielke got his PET scan results back. He has cancer close to his esophagus, a biopsy will be scheduled soon.
- Jackie Conner, Jo Boehmer's niece, continues to undergo chemo for pancreatic cancer.
- Janet, Jo Boehmer's cousin, is on a ventilator. She is able to respond to commands – squeezing hands, etc.
- Pray for God's discernment as we walk through the Pastoral Call process and the new Pastor to have a clear path to us.
- All those who are not able to worship with us because they are in health care facilities or homebound: Ina Koehler, Nancy Bakanas and George Vodden.
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams.
- Our church and its activities, and all Christian churches.
- Persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- All affected by violent crimes, accidents, and natural disasters.
- May God bless America, our president, elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear, and receive God's guidance and protection.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.

Next Week's Readings:

Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18