



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

*Saturday, May 1, 2021  
With readings for the 5th Sunday of Easter*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, May 1, 2021**

**(with scripture readings for the 5th 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. Then after worship, you're encouraged to introduce yourself to anyone you haven't met.

## **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:** "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"      vv1-3    **WOV 674**

## **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 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

**SECOND READING**

**1 John 4:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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

**GOSPEL**

**John 15:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>{Jesus said,} "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By

this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

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

## SERMON: “THE HOLY SPIRIT INVITES AN OUTCAST”

**SONG:** “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” vv. 1-2

**WOV 684**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH: Nicene Creed**

LBW p.64

### THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Holy God, through your son, Jesus, we abide in you. Help us to bear fruit as we seek to serve our neighbor. Grant us courage and strength so when we are pruned by the vinedresser, we not only glorify your Son, but bear even more fruit. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, who has made it possible for us to be together with you. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Eternal Lord, you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end of all that exists. Bring joy to families who are welcoming babies into their lives, so they might cherish every moment together. Bring comfort to those who grieve the loss of loved ones, assuring them of the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the beauty of your creation: for budding trees and blooming flowers, for a renewal of life on this planet. May we be good stewards of all the resources you have given, especially water, land, and food. May our care for the world you created be a sign of our devotion to you.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord of life, you are the source of all healing and rest. Grant your healing mercy to be with all those who struggle with pain or suffering. Surround them with your comfort. Lord, bring hope to the hopeless and provide for the needs of your people each day. [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** (Prayer #33) P. 69

**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:** "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" vv. 3-4 **WOV 684**

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

**Church Office:** (815) 522-3886

**Website:** [www.kirklandflc.org](http://www.kirklandflc.org)

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

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

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**Pianist:** Jill Vodden

**Hosts:** Peggy Steinhorst

**Offering Counters:** Keith Krabbe & Jo Boehmer

**Attendance Last Saturday:** 4/17: 16

**Last Sunday:** 4/18: 35

**Next Week's Readings:**

Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Ben Watson 5/1

Madison Marshall 5/4

Gary Steinhorst 5/4

Donna Peterson 5/5

Lynne Peterson 5/5

Leah Anderberg 5/8

**ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!**

George & Jill Vodden 5/9/99

## HYMNALS

If you had taken hymnals home during the pandemic, you are encouraged to return them at this time. If you are still watching the service by YouTube, you are welcome to continue to borrow them until you are comfortable coming to church. Thank you, Dianna

## FACE MASKS

New face mask guidelines for Sunday services. Starting, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 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. Please wear a mask when going up to the communion rail and when returning to your seat.



## *Thank you*

Thank you for the concerns, cards and prayers for my speedy recovery of my broken foot and pulled ligaments. Jean Bauer

Thank you so much for remembering me during the "Easter Season". It has been trying to celebrate the season with no church as this time. I worship by TV as much as possible. Many soul searchings and prayers went up to God in my room. God promised He would hear our prayers, wherever we were. His love is immeasurable, so we need not worry.

I know the love of my church family, and it is so comforting. Thank you for the beautiful lily plant.

God Loves you and so do !!

In Christ, Nancy Bakanas

Sunday 5/2: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee.

Tuesday 5/4: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Thursday 5/6: Confirmation class, 4pm.

Saturday 5/8: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 5/9: Worship Service, 9:00am. Happy Mother's Day!

### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- Louie Mielke had a biopsy on Friday, April 30.
- Bob Moauro, Gary & Peggy Steinhorst's friend had open heart surgery at the age of 50+. He is thankful to be alive.
- Jackie Conner, Jo Boehmer's niece, has been in the hospital due to dehydration and is unable to continue her chemo at this time.
- Janet, Jo Boehmer's cousin, is in the hospital and her condition has deteriorated. Pray for God's will to be done.
- Pray for God to lead a new Pastor to us.
- Ben Blobaum, our Seminarian, for discernment about an internship position.
- 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.