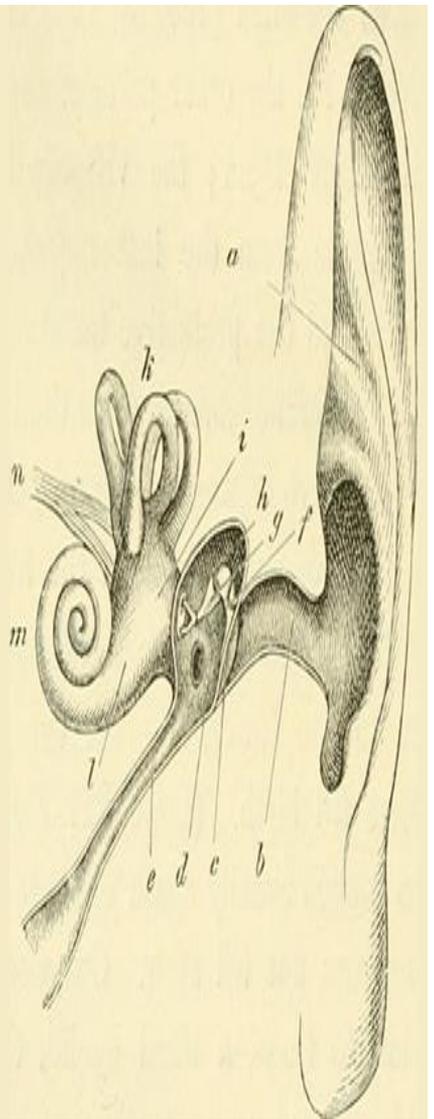


And his ears
were opened,
his tongue was
released, and
he spoke plainly.

Mark 7:35



First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First

Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873

Saturday, September 4, 2021

(With Readings for the 15th Sunday of Pentecost)

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(with scripture readings for the 15th Sunday of Pentecost)

LBW – green hymnal **BC** – Borning Cry Hymnal

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 Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for creating all living things and causing them to grow;

P AND OF THE SON:

C O Jesus Christ, our Savior, in whom we have been born anew, help us to grow up in every way into You, who are our Lord;

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C Dear Holy Spirit, you have called us all and gathered us together as the Body of Christ, the Church. Help your church to grow – in numbers, in faith, and in love.

All: AMEN!

OPENING SONG: “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

LBW 497

WE CONFESS

P Let us confess our weakness and sin, and hear the comfort of God.

C Dear Holy Spirit, we do not know how to pray as we ought. We confess that we have lived according to the flesh, with our minds set on the things of the flesh. We know this is death. We pray that each day you will set us free, setting our minds on the things of the Spirit, which is life and peace. *(Romans 8:5-6,26)*

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P The Spirit helps us in our weakness, and prays for us with sighs too deep for words. You are no longer in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. His peace be with you! *(Romans 8:1,9,11,26)*

C And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, from generation to generation your healing and life-giving power has been made manifest. Empower us to let the glory of your mercy and forgiveness shine through the light of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water

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

PSALM 146 (Read responsively by half verse)

P. 287

SECOND READING

James 2:1-10, 14-18

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? ⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

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

***ALLELUIA**

P. 83

***GOSPEL**

Mark 7:31-37

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

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

SERMON:

“BE OPENED”

SONG: “Open Our Eyes, Lord”

BC 176

STATEMENT OF FAITH – Nicene Creed

p.84

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Almighty and everlasting God, by your great mercy in Jesus Christ, your Son, you have given us forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and salvation. Grant that your Holy Spirit may so rule in our hearts, that we may put to death all fleshly and worldly desires, serve you in holiness and purity, and give you continual thanks for all your goodness.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, you are the source of all strength for us. Help us to depend on you and your strength rather than on our own. In our weakness and vulnerability, you show us your continual presence and protection. May we turn over all things to you, knowing and trusting that you hear us and will respond.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, grant courage and wisdom to our national leaders, to all who serve in local government, and to the members of our armed forces. Guide them all in the way of justice and truth in accordance to your will and guidance.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mighty Healer, you are the source of all mercy and healing. Help us to call on you in times of suffering and to believe wholeheartedly you will bring us restoration and newness of life. We ask this for our friends and family [especially ...]. Clothe your children in the glory of your loving presence, today and always, and make us truly grateful for your healing power in our lives.

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.91

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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.

C Amen.

THE BENEDICTION



CLOSING SONG: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

LBW 439

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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

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

Pianist: Jill Vodden

Offering Counters: Susan Wilson & Eida Bruning

Attendance Last Saturday, 8/28: 17

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Hosts: Jack & Josh Sunderlage

Last Sunday, 8/29: 41



SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

Please join us next week for Rally Day Sunday. This will be the start of Sunday School! Invite your neighborhood children and families to attend church and Sunday School. We are requiring that children wear a mask while inside the building. Masks will be provided if need be.

Let us all be like the little children, excited to hear, read and learn of God's word.

We look forward to seeing you.

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-10; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 9:14-29



Would you like a copy of Pastor's sermon? Please let Dianna know and she will email the sermon to you or will make a copy for you to pick-up the following week.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!



Susan Wilson 9/4
Renee Krabbe 9/4
Judy Goltermann 9/5
Harold Hintzsche 9/6
Matt Johnson 9/6
Wanda Bernhardt 9/7
Tracy Jones 9/8
Anna Wince 9/9
Lois Swan 9/11
Louie Mielke 9/12

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS



William & Jamie Wittwer 9/5/2020
Roger & Jean Bauer 9/6/1969

SCHOOL KITS



There are 112 school kits going to those children in need. Last year's school kits went to Honduras and Lebanon. Thank you to all who brought supplies or filled a school bag or two for the children.

FISHERS OF MEN



Please be cautious of those who are **Phishing** for your money. This is pronounced "fishing".

Even the church has been receiving emails that ask us to meet with a new prospective member that will

be moving into the area. Sounds wonderful however we received FIVE letters with the exact same request, just the names had changed.

See the narthex bulletin board for more information. If you have received emails or suspicious phone calls asking for your money or asking personal questions, do not respond to them. If you have any questions if the emails or phone calls are legitimate, please call the Kirkland police department at (815)522-3315.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday 9/5: Join us after the service for coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

Monday 9/6: Happy Labor Day!

Tuesday 9/7: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30am; dist., 12-2pm.

Thursday 9/9: Worship & Music Team meeting, 9:30am;
Confirmation & Parents Meeting in the Sanctuary, 6pm;
Church Council, 7pm.

Saturday 9/11: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 9/12: Worship Service with Sunday School Rally Day, 9am.
Newsletter items due!

PARISH CONCERNS

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

- For the 13 brave soldiers killed in Afghanistan. May their families know God.
- Persecuted Christians and other Afghans suffering violence of the Taliban.
- Marvin Bernhardt had neck surgery recently and is at Alden Debes Rehabilitation Center.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying, especially Amy Blobaum.
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams including Trudy Loomis, Lorraine Steinhurst and Jason Gorski.
- 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.
- Ben Blobaum, our Seminarian, for discernment about a vicarage (internship) position.
- Pray for all NALC congregations that are waiting for new Pastors, let us all be patient.
- All elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- All those who are affected by the natural disasters.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.