



Character
of a Disciple:
Reconciliation

A Sunday
Lenten Series
2022

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

Saturday, March 26, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Lent

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(with scripture readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent)

WELCOME! We hope that this service will be a blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down your pew. Place this form in the offering plate when it is passed.

THE SERVICE BEGINS

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

C O Loving God, you gave your only Son to die for us, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life;

P AND OF THE SON:

C O Jesus, our Lord, you humbled yourself, and became obedient unto death - even the death of the cross;

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C O Holy Spirit, guide us into all truth, and remind us of everything Jesus has taught us. AMEN!

OPENING SONG: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" **LBW 499**

WE CONFESS

P Let us confess our sin and griefs, and hear the comfort of the Lord.

C O Lord, we have often given in to temptation. We have often been weak under pressure, and because of fear or flattery, we have disobeyed you. We ask you of your great mercy, to forgive us, to make us whole, to draw us near to you, and to strengthen us for the next time we are tempted.

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P Our savior is able to sympathize with our weakness, for He too was tempted by the devil. In the wilderness, Satan encouraged Jesus to use his power for himself, instead of for others. And when He was dying, some tempted Him to come down off the cross. Had He given in, we would have been lost! But He prayed, "Father, not my will, but Thine be done." And thus strengthened, He gave himself into death for our sins. In His name, I declare to you that Jesus Christ has made full satisfaction for all your sins. Your guilt is removed. You are clean and pure, and standing in the presence of God. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Reconciling God, in you is mercy, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Whether we wander far from you or remain faithful, let us always rejoice in the never-ending and limitless outpouring of your compassion and forgiveness for repentant sinners; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 12:1-6

¹You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ²"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵"Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

P The Word of our Lord

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 32 (Read responsively by whole verse)

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SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

P The Word of our Lord

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear {Jesus}. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable:

¹¹... "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you

never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

P The Gospel of our Lord C Thanks be to God

Sermon: **"CHARACTER OF A DISCIPLE:
RECONCILIATION**

SONG: "What Wonderous Lord Is This"

LBW 385

APOSTLES' CREED

LBW p. 106

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LBW p. 106

Everlasting God, we give you thanks for the gift of new life which springs forth from you in our baptism. Guide our lives that being daily made new, we might be faithful stewards of the ministry of reconciliation with which we have been entrusted.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Forgiving God, you pour out your grace and mercy with great delight. In this season of Lent, help us to trust in your mercy and turn our hearts to you, basking in the joy you find in our return. Likewise, Lord, help us to be people who rejoice when we see others who find their true home in you.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Creator of all, you call us to keep our tongues from evil and to stop showing disrespect toward people whom you have made. You require us to depart from evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it. We pray that through our actions of love, others will be inspired to overcome prejudice, stop fearing their neighbors, and that we might all learn to live together as fellow children of God in this world

. Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Holy God, you lead us through dark valleys shadowed by suffering. Be the strong guide and sure comfort of all who call upon you [especially ...]. Fill them with your abundant life, keep

them steadfast in faith, and strengthen and bless all who care for them. *Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER
OFFERING**

LBW p. 113

CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING

(Based on Psalm 51, prayed by King David, when Nathan confronted him with his sin)

L Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

L Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

L O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. AMEN.

CLOSING SONG: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

WOV 731

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

Pastor: Thomas Thorstad (716) 990-6244(c)

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

Pianist: Jill Vodden

Hosts: Richard & Peggy Wince

Offering Counters: Roger Bauer and Susan Wilson

Attendance Last Saturday, 3/19: 18

Attendance Sunday, 3/20: 43

Wednesday Lenten Service, 3/23:35

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

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BAPTISM TOMORROW!!!

We rejoice as God will welcome **Josiah Adam Blobaum**, son of Ben and Amy Blobaum into His family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism tomorrow. Congratulations and God's richest blessings to Josiah, his family, and baptismal sponsors, Katie Pieh and Justin Baker.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE

You will need to have a Facebook account to be able to access our page. Go to "First Lutheran Church Kirkland IL".

We encourage you to "like" and "follow" this page to get notifications and announcement. There is also a link on our website (www.kirklandflc.org). Thank you, Pastor Tom and Jo Boehmer who will be the administrators of the Facebook page.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

This Lenten schedule runs each Wednesday through April 6.

5:45pm – Lenten Dinner

6:30pm –Lenten Vespers Service

This year's mid-week Lenten theme will be **God's Mercy**

3/30 Mercy in Relationships 4/6 Mercy in Service

LENTEN DINNER

Date	Hosts	(meal served)
3/30	Wittwer's	Italian Beef
4/6	Men	Pork Chops

Thank You!

To all; A big thank you for your thoughts and prayers through the recent heart surgery of my wife Lisa Coyle, and my mother Sally Coyle.

Both are home and doing well so far. Thanks be to God.

Personal Care Kits: Thank you to all who helped provide supplies and assemble the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. We will be sending 96 kits to those in need.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We have the materials! We are looking for a member or two to lead the Vacation Bible School. We are hoping to have VBS scheduled for the first week in June. Please let Pastor Tom or Dianna know that you are interested.



BLACK FRIENDSHIP PEW BOOKLET

Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down your pew. Place this form in the offering plate when it is passed.

There is a lot of information of the upcoming events inside this booklet.

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

No Birthdays or Anniversaries for this next week. If I have missed a birthday or anniversary, please let me know – Dianna.

Sunday 3/27: Join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee after the service!

Monday 3/28: Clothes Closet open, 12-1:30pm.

Tuesday 3/29: Food Pantry set-up, 9:30-11am; distribution 12-2pm.

Wednesday 3/30: Lenten Dinner, 5:45pm. Italian Beef by Wittwer & friends. Lenten Vespers Service, 6:30pm: "Mercy in Relationships".

Thursday 3/31: Confirmation Class, 5:30pm.

Saturday 4/2: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 4/3: Communion Service with Sunday School to follow, 9am.

PARISH CONCERNS

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

- Chris, Gary Steinhorst's cousin was diagnosed with brain cancer.
- Justin Mielke to have clear answers to all the tests he is having recently.
- Ron Peabody, Judy Lacefield's brother-in-law, will have bladder cancer surgery on March 23rd.
- James, 2-year-old was in a car accident in Jackson, Mo. last week. This is a friend of Peggy Wince's.
- Jason Gorski, Dan & Janelle Pahnke's nephew is fighting cancer.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying, especially Abby (Pahnke) Bohn, Jamie Wittwer and Laura Block.
- All those who are not able to worship with us because they are in health care facilities or homebound: Betty Paulsen, Ina Koehler, Nancy Bakanas, George Vodden and many others.
- 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.
- Situations in Ukraine and Myanmar and all effected by this.
- All elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- Persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- All NALC churches that are searching for a Pastor.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.