

First Lutheran Church  
Kirkland, IL

# Beginning with the End

LIVING IN  
THE END

A Preaching Series

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

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

*Saturday, April 23, 2022  
With readings for the Second Sunday of Easter*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, April 23, 2022**

*(with scripture readings for the 2nd Sunday of Easter)*

WELCOME! We hope that this service will be a blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down your pew. As it's passed back to you, remove the completed sheet and place it in the offering plate after noting those sharing your pew. 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:** "When Peace, like a River"

**LBW 346**

## **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 then have come also those 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**

Help us, almighty God, that our joyful celebration of the resurrection feast may be reflected in our daily work and conversation. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 5:12-20

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. <sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

**P** The Word of our Lord    **C** Thanks be to God

**PSALM 148** (Read responsively by whole verse)

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### **SECOND READING**

Revelation 1:4-18

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to

him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. <sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” <sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.” <sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. <sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

**P** The Word of our Lord    **C** Thanks be to God

## **GOSPEL**

John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” <sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So

the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." <sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**P** The Gospel of our Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## **SERMON: "BEGINNING WITH THE END"**

**SONG:** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

**LBW 543**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** - Apostles' Creed

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**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

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Holy God, inspire us as your first apostles did, to go into the world with the message of the Good News of Christ. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may have the words to speak about your saving grace to all who are lost, alone, or hopeless. May we share Christ with all whom we meet so that the world would be transformed by your love.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Lord God, you are the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. May we always put our complete trust in your ways. We ask that you would bring healing and wholeness to all those who are hurting this day, [especially....] that they may know their lives are in your eternal hands. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, you know our fears and our concerns. Grant us your grace in times of anxiety and worry, that we would cast all our cares upon you. Give us your peace that passes all human

understanding, especially when we struggle with difficult situations in our lives. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, you are the source of all creation. You put the heavens and earth in their proper place. Bring warmth to the earth as farmers plant seeds; bring rain to water the ground and provide those who work the soil with the tools and resources they need so that a bountiful harvest may be reaped in the months to come. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER  
OFFERING**

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**CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING**

**L** I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.

**C** The Lord is my strength and my song; he has been my Savior.

**L** This is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

**C** Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

**L** Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

**C** In your mercy you led forth the people you set free; you guided them in your strength to your holy habitation.

**L** You will bring them in and plant them on the mount that is your possession.

**C** The place, O Lord, you have made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have prepared. The Lord shall reign forever and ever.

**L** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**C** as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

**CLOSING SONG:** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!" **LBW 144**

**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:** tbd

**Hosts:** Russ & Judy Lacefield

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**Offering Counters:** Mary Loomis and Donna Koehnke

## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!

Jill Vodden 4/17

Marti Valasek 4/19

Pauline Cultra (Organist) 4/20

Brayden Chastain 4/23/15

Ashley Mielke 4/28

Mark Brykowski 4/29

## ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!

Herb & Dolores Plote 4/24/54

Mark & Cindy Stoll 4/25/15

Brad & Nichole Benson 4/26/2008

Brian & Ashley Mielke 4/27/2013

## 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.

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CAKE RECEPTION

Please join us after service today for a cake reception. Help us thank the many volunteers that work so hard throughout the year. There are many opportunities to volunteer. Thank you to Jo & John Boehmer for providing the cake and to Deuane for the flower arrangements. Jo has also listed most of the volunteer opportunities in the Narthex. If you are available to volunteer, please let Jo or Dianna know.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Worship + Music
  - Team Leader
  - Team Member
  - Special Music (vocal or instrumental)
- Property
  - Team Leader
  - Team Member
  - Tradesmen
- Clothes Closet + Food Pantry
- Stewardship
- Fellowship
- Bible Study Leaders
- VBS + Sunday School Teachers/Helpers

- Lay Reader  
- Usher

Plan Activities  
Help as needed  
Provide Food

Youth Sponsor

July 4<sup>th</sup> Float TEAM

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♪♪ Help Wanted

Saturday Evening  
Pianist ♪♪

Volunteer Coordinator

Sunday 4/24: Join us after the service for a cake reception in Fellowship Hall to honor all our volunteers.

Monday 4/25: Clothes Closet\_open, 12-1:30pm.

Tuesday 4/26: Food Pantry set up,9:30am; food distribution, 12-2pm.

Thursday 4/28: Wittenberg Door – Pastor’s Fellowship, 10am.

Confirmation, 5:30pm.

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

Sunday 5/1: Communion Service, 9am.

### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- First Lutheran’s many volunteers who give countless hours to take care of all our church activities and the property.
- Herb Plote has passed away. Funeral arrangements haven’t been made yet.
- Ashley Boyer had surgery on Friday to remove a kidney stone. She should be home today.
- Madeline Brahm, 22yr old Kirkland resident who had a brain bleed in December. By a miracle she is alive and walking however has a long recovery.
- Lenny Peterson had back surgery on Wednesday. He is home.
- Justin Mielke to have clear answers to all the tests he is having recently.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying, especially Abby (Pahnke) Bohn, Jamie Wittwer, Laura Block and Rachel Ash.
- 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.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.