



First Lutheran
Church
Kirkland, IL

Advent 3

**A Desert
in Bloom**

*Advent Series:
A Geography of
Salvation*

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

*Saturday, December 10, 2022
With Readings for Third Sunday of Advent*

First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First

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With Readings for Third Sunday of Advent

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshiping with us today! We hope that the service will be a joy and blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down the 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 Dear heavenly Father, you comforted your people with the promise that you would send us a savior;

P AND OF THE SON:

C Come Lord Jesus, the Son of God! Come in power and glory and victory! Come quickly, and save your people;

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C Come upon us, O Spirit of power and might. Breathe on us your life-giving breath, that we may watch and wait for Christ's return. Amen

SONG: "The King Shall Come"

LBW 33

WE CONFESS

P With the words of Isaiah and the Psalms, we confess our sins and our grief, and we hear the comfort of the Lord.

C All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field: the grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. *Isaiah 40*

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right-hand wither! Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. *Psalms 137*

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever! Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God! Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her punishment is over, that her guilt is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. Behold, the Lord is coming to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. *Isaiah 40*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 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; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146 (Read responsively by half verse)

P. 287

SECOND READING

James 5:7-11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As

an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-15

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

SERMON: "A DESERT IN BLOOM"

SONG: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

LBW 29

STATEMENT OF FAITH - Apostles' Creed

LBW p.106

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LBW p.106

Heavenly Father, you have given us your Word as both Law and Gospel. Use your Word like a hammer and break our hard hearts so

that they may be filled with the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, open our mouths to speak and teach your Word and its benefits to all generations.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, guide us throughout this Advent season as a shepherd guides his flock. Turn us away from the temptations of consumerism and lead us to see and respond to the needs of those in our community. Help us to care for those who find this season difficult, because of grief, loneliness, or busyness.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, grant courage and wisdom to our national leaders, [especially ...], to all who serve in government, and to the members of our armed forces. Guide them in the way of justice and truth.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God of grace and comfort, stretch out your saving hand to touch the lives of those for whom we pray. Visit them with your almighty power and strengthen them with your eternal love. [We lift before you today the needs of ...] According to your gracious will, relieve their pain, heal their illness, and bring your comfort to their spirit. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p.113

OFFERING

CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING

(The Song of Mary, when she visited her cousin Elizabeth after the angel Gabriel had appeared to her - traditionally called "The Magnificat")

P And Mary said,

C "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

P for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

C Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

P He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

C He has shown strength with his arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

P He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

- C** He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
- P** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
C according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham, and to his descendants forever.”
- P** Glory be 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:** “Prepare the Royal Highway” **LBW 26**
- P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
- C** Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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

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

Pianist: Nancy Plote

Attendance last Saturday, 12/3:11

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Host: Jack & Josh Sunderlage

Last Sunday, 12/4:50

Lessons for Next Week

Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

Carl Nelson 12/12

Everly Mielke 12/14/17

Elda Bruning 12/12

Jane Johnson 12/16



SOCKS BOX

The Lydia Circle will be collecting NEW, WHITE socks for men in need at Rockford Rescue Mission or other shelters. Please bring the socks by Sunday, December 18th and place them in the “SOCKS BOX” in the Narthex.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Program will be on TOMORROW! You are welcome to come to the Sunday service as well. The children's program will be at the beginning of the service.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL GARDEN

Poinsettias for our Christmas Memorial Garden are ready to order. Only 20 plants are available and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis, so **please order early**. They are \$10 each. There are forms and envelopes in the narthex. The filled forms may be placed into the offering plate or on Dianna's desk. The forms are due in by Dec. 18th.

VISIT WITH PASTOR

If you would like to visit with the Pastor, please call him at (716) 990-6244 or the church office (815) 522-3886 to set a time to visit with him at the church or at your home.

Office Bulletin Board:

Evangelism & Outreach – How to begin. Pastor has posted steps of how to share your faith.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 12/11: Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and a snack. Newsletter Items due.

The Poinsettia orders and new, white socks collection are both due next week.

Tuesday 12/13: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 12/14: Newsletter folding, 9am.

Thursday 12/15: Wittenberg Door, Pastor's Fellowship, 10am.

Saturday 12/17: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 12/18: Communion Service; Sunday School to follow, 9am.

This will be the last Sunday School session until January 8, 2023.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve service will be Saturday, Dec. 24th at 7pm.

Christmas Day Service will be on Sunday, Dec. 25th at 9am.

Invite a friend or two.



PARISH CONCERNS

- Kelly Arnold, our cleaning lady, had knee replacement surgery on Tuesday.
- Loraine Steinhorst, as the Alzheimer is progressing.
- All those who are not able to worship with us because they are in health care facilities or homebound: 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, especially Carolyn Suhr, and Jerry Sheehan.
- Those with cancer: Ryleigh Joos, Jason Gorski, and Chris Droes, (Gary Steinhorst's cousin).
- St. John's Lutheran Church, Creston, IL & St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Oregon, IL as they begin the call process for a Pastor.
- Persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.