



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

*Saturday, January 21, 2023  
With readings for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, January 21, 2023**

(with scripture readings for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany)

**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.

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

**C** O Mighty God, you once revealed yourself to your people on Mt. Sinai, in fire and thunder and cloud, as you gave your Ten Commandments;

**P** AND OF THE SON:

**C** O Jesus, our Lord and God, you made your divine power manifest by changing water into wine, healing the sick, and teaching the people with power and authority;

**P** AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

**C** O Divine Spirit, when Jesus was baptized, you came upon Him in the form of a dove. Come upon us now, in the speaking of your Word.  
AMEN!

**OPENING SONG: “Be Thou My Vision”**

**WOV 776**

## **WE CONFESS**

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

**C** If you revealed only your power and your law to us, O Lord, we would be undone. Like the Israelites who trembled with fear at Mt. Sinai, and like the disciple Peter, who upon seeing your Power over nature, cried out, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”, we too would be reduced to fear and trembling, guilt and hopelessness. We confess that we have not and cannot live up to your righteous and good laws, and that we cannot stand before your almighty power.

## **WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION**

**P** Jesus reveals himself to us most completely, not through laws, commandments, and displays of awesome power, but through lowliness and humility. He came to John the Baptist to be baptized, though he didn't need to at all. By doing so, he showed that he is not ashamed to be associated with sinners. Indeed, he loves sinners, and wants to come into their lives and be their friend. Jesus loves us sinners. In His name, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. The peace of the Lord be with you always! **C** And also with you!

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, graciously look down on our weakness. Reach out to us with your majestic Right Hand and satisfy us with His glory. We ask through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

<sup>1</sup>But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

### PSALM 27:1-9 (Read responsively by half verse)

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### SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-25

<sup>12</sup>When {Jesus} heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup>And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — <sup>16</sup>the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” <sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>18</sup>While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. <sup>23</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. <sup>24</sup>So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. <sup>25</sup>And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

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

## SERMON: “THE PROMISE OF MINISTRY”

**SONG:** “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

**WOV 752**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** Apostles' Creed

LBW p.85

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

LBW p.85

Merciful God, we give you thanks and praise for the gift of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, which finds its unity in your Son. As you nourish and sustain all living things, by your Word and Sacrament nourish and sustain the whole body of Christ. Draw us near to your love and to your world in compassionate grace.

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

Heavenly Father, we know that you long for wholeness and the well-being of all your children. Yet far too many of your children will be without shelter this night. Protect all who will spend this night on park benches, under freeway overpasses, in vacant lots, and abandoned buildings. May they find safety, sustenance, and warmth. Help us to provide whatever assistance we can.

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

Christ our shepherd and guardian, protect all people from rulers who care nothing for their welfare and from all the threatening dangers of this world. Bring peace in places of violence, rich pasture in places of poverty, and true righteousness in places of injustice.

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

Lord Jesus, you have promised to be with us always, even to the close of the age. By your comforting presence, abide with those who feel unloved, who deal with crisis, and who struggle with illness [especially ...]. Surround them with people who will show compassion.

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

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW p.91

### **OFFERING**

### **CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING**

Based on the Song of Simeon, also known as the "Nunc Dimittis" (Luke 2:29-32)

**P** Lord, now you dismiss your servants in peace.

**C** Now, Lord, knowing your promises, we can depart in peace; and one day, we can depart this world in peace.

**P** Our eyes have seen God's salvation!

**C** "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!" We have seen Christ, with the eyes of faith.

**P** He has prepared His salvation in the sight of every people.

**C** By a star, God led Gentiles from the east to His infant son. His salvation is for all people – not just for some.

**P** God's Son is the light of the world, revealing Him to all nations.

**C** May we too be the light of the world, as Christ has called us.

**P** He is the glory of God's people Israel.

**C** We thank God for His chosen people, and for His Messiah, Jesus Christ. And we thank Him for making us, and all who believe in Jesus, His chosen people!

**P** 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:** "We All Are One in Mission"

**WOV 755**

**THE BENEDICTION**

**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)

**Organist:** Nancy Plote

**Saturday Hosts:** Lynne Peterson

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

**Attendance Last Saturday:** 1/14:14

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

[pastor@kirklandflc.org](mailto:pastor@kirklandflc.org)

[secretary@kirklandflc.org](mailto:secretary@kirklandflc.org)

**Attendance Sunday, 1/15:** 41

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Keegan Marshall 1/21/2010

Alice Hintzsche 1/28

Janelle Pahnke 1/28

Becca Crain 1/30

Bob Coyle 1/31

Keith Krabbe 1/31

No Anniversaries that are recorded in our church records. If I have missed your birthday or anniversary, please share with me as I would like our records to be as complete as possible. Dianna Wittwer



**THANK YOU from Debi Hetland for all the cards and prayers!**

**CHURCH FUN FACTS**

In 1927 Rev. Alfred Fant took over for the very sick pastor for three months for \$5 a service while Annette Carlson took over evening services and leading Luther League meetings.

(Celebrating our 150th Anniversary, Connie Worden has found some fun facts that will be included in the bulletins each week and the newsletters each month. Hope you find them interesting. Dianna)

## **SHOP NOW FOR PERSONAL CARE KITS**

We will be collecting all items from mid- January through mid-February. You may bring any of the above items, you do not have to put a kit together. If you choose to make a kit, you may. All of the supplies will be taken to our local NALC disaster relief location.

### **Health Care Kit**

***(Pack in 2-gallon Ziplock or tote bag)***

- o 1 bath towel
- o 1 wash cloth (optional)
- o 1 shampoo (2 if travel size)
- o 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size)
- o 1 toothbrush
- o 1 pack of floss (optional)
- o 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size)
- o 1 comb
- o 1 deodorant
- o 1 nail clippers (optional)



### **DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP THE FOLLOWING FROM THE NARTHEX:**

1. Offering envelopes
2. End of Year statements
3. Annual Reports Booklet, read through it and bring it back when you attend FLC ANNUAL MEETING on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 10:15 A.M.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Dianna, or call me at the office (815)522-3886 or my cell (815)378-6654.

Sunday, 1/22: Join us after the service for coffee and Adult Forum  
in Fellowship Hall!

Tuesday 1/24: Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; distribution., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 1/25: On-line Bible Study resumes, 7pm.

Thursday 1/26: Wittenberg Door, 10am. Confirmation Class, 5:30pm.

Saturday 1/28: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 1/29: Worship Service, 9am.

Annual Congregation Meeting, 10:15am. Please attend!

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please pray for the following people that are near and dear to our hearts:

- Chris Droes, Gary Steinhorst's cousin is in hospice care now.
- Debi Hetland had a bad fall, spent days in ICU, and is now home. Sending a card? Address is on the narthex bulletin board.
- 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, Jerry Sheehan, Ryleigh Joos, Jason Gorski, and Loraine Steinhorst (Gary Steinhorst's mother).
- All elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- Our church and its activities, and all Christian churches.
- All NALC churches that are searching for a Pastor.
- Pastor's Conference Jan. 30 – Feb. 3 in San Antonio, Tx.
- The NALC, NALS, and the Great Rivers Mission District.

## **Lessons for Next Week**

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12