

Choose  
LIFE.  
Deuteronomy 30:19

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

*Saturday, February 11, 2023*  
*With readings for the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, February 11, 2023**

(with scripture readings for the 6th 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:** “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

**WOV 783**

## **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

O Lord, graciously hear the requests of your people. May we who are afflicted for our sins be mercifully relieved, for the sake of your glory, to find new life through the love of Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

<sup>15</sup>{Moses said,} “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

**PSALM 119:1-8** (Read responsively by whole verse)

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### SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

<sup>1</sup>But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? <sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is

anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:21-37

<sup>21</sup>{Jesus said,} "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'  
<sup>22</sup>But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. <sup>27</sup>You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'  
<sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. <sup>31</sup>It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'  
<sup>32</sup>But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. <sup>33</sup>Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'  
<sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil." **P** The Gospel of the Lord **C** Thanks be to God

# SERMON: "THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM"

**SONG:** "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

**LBW 487**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** Apostles' Creed

LBW p.85

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

LBW p.85

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the fulfillment of your divine Word spoken through the patriarchs and prophets. We glorify your holy and divine name for the gift of salvation that comes through the precious body and blood of your Son, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith daily, that we may proclaim the deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into the marvelous wonder of your holy light.

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

God of night and day, sun and moon, in the midst of winter days that seem grey and dreary stir in us contentment and joy as we contemplate your mercies which are new every day, your steadfast loving-kindness, and your unfailing presence with us. Remind us that it is only in you that true joy and contentment can be found.

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

Holy Spirit, open our hearts and our eyes. Teach us to see those in need and move to serve them in their need. Keep us ever mindful that it is in the face of others that we shall see our Lord, Jesus and through our care for them that we shall serve him.

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

Healer of our every ill, your people suffer pain and sadness, illness and despair, desolation and hopelessness. Shine the light of your presence into the dark shadows of our lives that threaten to overwhelm us. Bring us your light and life. We pray especially for

....

*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:** “God Be with You til We Meet Again”

**REC 55**

1. God be with you till we meet again,  
By his counsels guide, uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again,

Refrain:

Til we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus’ feet;  
Til we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you til we meet again

2. God be with you till we meet again,  
Neath his wings protecting hide you,  
Daily manna still provide you,  
God be with you till we meet again,  
Refrain

3. God be with you till we meet again,  
When life’s perils thick confound you,  
Put his arms unfailing round you,  
God be with you till we meet again,  
Refrain

4. God be with you till we meet again,  
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
Smite death's threat'ning waves before you,  
God be with you till we meet again,  
Refrain

## **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

**Offering Counters:** Angie Springborn & Ashley Boyer

**Attendance Last Saturday:** 2/4:19

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

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

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

**Saturday Hosts:** Chuck Huey & Darla McManus

**Attendance Sunday, 2/5:** 58

## **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Jim Suhr 2/10

Pastor Tom Thorstad 2/12

Delaney Cook 2/13/2014

Janice Sheehan 2/15

Steve May 2/15

Sandy Gustafson 2/15

## **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS**

Denny & Debbie Rehn 2/17/73

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

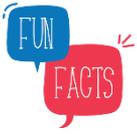
## **WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Mark Boehmer & Annelise Daab were married on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in Milwaukee. May God bless their marriage.

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

We will be collecting all items until the end of 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. See the Narthex for a list.

## CHURCH FUN FACTS



Our present church sits two feet higher than it did when it was built. Look for an upcoming newsletter article explaining how and why that happened.

Sunday, 2/12: Join us after the service in the fellowship hall to celebrate Pastor Tom's birthday. Newsletter items are due today.

Tuesday 2/14: Worship & Music Team mtg, 9:30am.

Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; distribution., 12-2pm.

Newsletter Folding, 2pm.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Wednesday 2/15: On-line Bible Study this week.

Thursday 2/16: Confirmation Class, 5:30pm.

Saturday 2/18: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 2/19: Communion Service, 9am, Sunday School Children to sing.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Ryleigh Joos, great-niece of Dan & Janelle Pahnke, is in remission, Praise God!
- Elda Bruning is now home after a hospital stay from a nosebleed.
- Tony Rutigliano, Phillip Bruning's father-in-law, had brain surgery.
- Louie Mielke will be having a pre-operative test for wrist surgery scheduled for Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Chris Droes, Gary Steinhorst's cousin is in hospice care now.
- 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 Debi Hetland, Carolyn Suhr, Jerry Sheehan, 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.
- All affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.
- Our church and its activities, and all Christian churches.
- All NALC churches that are searching for a Pastor.
- The NALC, NALS, and the Great Rivers Mission District.