

Isaiah 42:16

**I will lead the blind in a way  
that they do not know.**

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

*Sunday, March 19, 2023  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

*First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First*  
**4th Sunday in Lent – March 19, 2023**

**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 your pew. Place this form in the offering plate when it is passed.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. All who believe that Christ is present in this Sacrament are invited to share in His supper. The inner glasses on the tray are grape juice and water, the rest of the glasses are wine. Children who have not received Communion instruction should kneel at the altar with their arms crossed upon their chest to receive a Baptismal blessing.

LBW – green hymnal    WOV – blue hymnal    \*Please stand as able.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

- \*Brief Order for Public Confession P. 98
- \*Opening Hymn: “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” **LBW 93**
- \*Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 99
- \*Glory to God in the Highest P. 100
- \*Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, grant that we, who for our evil deeds worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of your grace, may mercifully be relieved; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children’s Sermon (Children attend Sunday School after this.)

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 42:14-21

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. <sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. <sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I

do not forsake them. <sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." <sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! <sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? <sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. <sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

**PSALM 142** (Read responsively by half verse)

P. 285

**SECOND READING:**

Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup>... {F}or at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Lenten Sentence

P. 104

**\*GOSPEL:**

John 9:1-41

<sup>1</sup>As {Jesus} passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes

opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper

of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

Sermon:

## **“BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE”**

\*Hymn of the Day: “Christ, the Life of All the Living” **LBW 97**

\*Nicene Creed P. 105

\*Prayers of Church P. 106

Eternal God, lord of mercy, you continue to pour out upon us grace upon grace, blessing upon blessing; yet too often we fail to recognize your blessings and our need for your grace. Grant us the grace to set our minds on things above, where Christ is seated at your right hand and for Christ’s sake show us your abundant mercy.

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

Through the transforming work of your most Holy Spirit, keep us mindful during this Lenten season of Jesus’ journey to the cross. Help us to contemplate the magnitude of your costly grace, teach us to value that which is of surpassing worth, and reveal to us the new things you are doing in our midst.

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

God of justice, our Lord, Jesus, came to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to those in bondage. We pray for those who are incarcerated, that they may experience your mercy, so that their lives would be transformed and set free from the chains of sin.

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

Almighty and merciful God, your Son stretched out his hand to heal the sick; bringing sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, hope to the despairing, and forgiveness to all. Reach out your hand to touch and hold those for whom we pray, that they may experience your healing power. [This day we pray especially for ...] *Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

Offering

*Create in Me	(Back Hymnal Cover)
*Offertory Prayer	P. 108
*Great Thanksgiving	P. 109
*Words of Institution	P. 110
*The Lord's Prayer	P. 113
Lamb of God	P. 114
Communion Distribution	
*Lord, Now You Let Your Servant	P. 116
*Benediction	P. 117
*Threefold Amen	
*Closing Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"	<b><u>WOV 776</u></b>
*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!	
<b>*Congregation: Thanks be to God!</b>	

**Church Office:** (815) 522-3886

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

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

**Pianist:** Jill Vodden

**Lay Reader:** Ps. Deuane

**Ushers:** Louie Mielke (Head usher), Jo Boehmer, Chris & Ashley Boyer

**Offering Counters:** Roger Bauer and Susan Wilson

**Attendance Last Saturday,** 3/11: 15

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

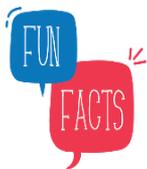
[pastor@kirklandflc.org](mailto:pastor@kirklandflc.org)

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

**Coffee Servers:** Louie Mielke

**Acolyte:** Reagan Cook

**Attendance Sunday,** 3/12: 45



## **CHURCH FUN FACTS**

In 1945 First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kirkland became self-sustaining and no longer received aid as a mission church, which we started receiving during Rev. Ralph Nelson's tenure (1930-1944).

## **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

George Vodden 3/20 Mike Sester 3/21 Justin Mielke 3/24

## **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!**

Gary & Peggy Steinhorst 3/24/90

If I have missed a birthday or anniversary, please let me know –  
Dianna.

## **LENTEN SCHEDULE**

Our meal will be sloppy joes served by the Sunday School parents and students at 5:45pm. Our service will be at 6:45pm and we will visit "The Courtyard" as we continue the theme of "PLACES OF THE PASSION".

## **HOLY WEEK**

Apr.6 Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 7pm.

Apr.7 Good Friday Service 7pm. Prayer Vigil begins at 8:30pm.

Please sign-up on the vigil cross in the narthex.

Apr.8 No Saturday Service. Prayer Vigil concludes, at 2pm.

## **EASTER SERVICES & BREAKFAST**

The council will be discussing Easter Services and breakfast at the Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Information will be shared as soon as available.

## **EASTER LILY MEMORIAL GARDEN**

The Easter Lilies will be \$11.00 per plant this year. We have 18 plants for sale currently. There are order forms in the narthex. You may also call Dianna to order an Easter Lily to honor or in memory of a loved one or dear friend. You may call her at the church office (815) 522-3886 or cell phone (815) 378-6654.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:**

We are looking for a member or two to lead the Vacation Bible School. We are hoping to have VBS scheduled for June 12-15. Please let Pastor Tom or Jo know that you are interested.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

Sunday 3/19: Join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee after service.

Adult Forum, 10:30am.

Monday 3/20: Food Truck Delivery, 8:30am.

Tuesday 3/21: Food Pantry set-up, 9:30-11am; dist. 12-2pm.

Wednesday 3/22: Lenten Dinner, 5:45pm;

Lenten Vespers Service, 6:45pm.

Thursday 3/23 Wittenberg Door – Pastor’s Fellowship, 10am.

Saturday 3/25: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 3/26: Worship Service, and Sunday School, 9am.

## **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- Lenny Peterson had a pacemaker put in a week ago, he is home.
- Eddie Young, Charmaine Massey’s son is now home from a heart procedure.
- Pastor Ian Griffith, LCMC pastor serving Zion Lutheran Church in La Moille, Illinois. He has a cancerous lump on the side of his jaw.
- Jason Gorski’s cancer isn’t responding to the new chemo medication. Jason is 42 years old, married with two children.
- All pregnant women and the babies they are carrying.
- 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, Jason Gorski, and Loraine Steinhorst (Gary Steinhorst’s mother).
- 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.

## **Lessons for Next Week:**

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-45 [46-53]