



This is the day  
that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice  
and be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24

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

*Saturday, April 1, 2023*  
*With Readings for Palm Sunday*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, April 1, 2023**

(with readings for Palm Sunday)

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.

## **\*THE INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen**

**OPENING SONG:** "My Song Is Love Unknown" vv 1-4

**LBW 94**

## **WE CONFESS**

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

**C** Lord Jesus Christ, when you entered Jerusalem, the crowds welcomed you with joy and praised you with loud Hosannas!" But only five days later, the crowds despised and rejected you, demanding that you be crucified. We too are fickle in our love for you. We ask your forgiveness and mercy for all the times we have turned away from you. Help us, we pray, by your Holy Spirit, at all times to welcome your word; at all times, to welcome You. Amen

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

**P** When Jesus Christ came to Jerusalem, the city wasn't truly prepared to receive him. But Jesus came anyway! That's the good news of forgiveness and salvation. No matter how unprepared we are; no matter that we're not ready or worthy; Jesus comes anyway. He doesn't despise or reject us on account of our sin. He comes into our lives and saves us from our sin, no matter what it costs him. The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C** And also with you.

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you have sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to take upon our flesh and to suffer death on the cross, that all humanity should follow the example of his humility. Mercifully grant that we

may follow the example of his patience and be partakers of his resurrection; 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 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The LORD God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The LORD God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. <sup>7</sup>But the LORD God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. <sup>9a</sup> Behold, the LORD God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

### **PSALM 118:19-29** (responsively by half verse)

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### **SECOND READING**

Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **GOSPEL**

John 12:12-19

<sup>12</sup>The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup>And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, <sup>15</sup>"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" <sup>16</sup>His disciples did not

understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup>The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup>The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup>So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

## SERMON: "BETHPHAGE"

### HYMN: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders. Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished; His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom. But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer. But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid the ransom.

### NICENE CREED

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### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Holy Spirit, you are the Lord and giver of life. We thank you for filling us with your strength. Empower our witness so that we boldly share the truth with others in Christian love and service, at every time and in every place we are given the opportunity.

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

Holy God, inspire your church to lives of faithfulness, boldness, and compassion; so that, through its witness, many may join it in singing, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!" *Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.*

God of goodness, all creation proclaims your glory; open our eyes to see your power and majesty in the detailed beauty of our world, and open our hearts to be gentle caretakers of the earth. Let the glory of creation be a testimony to your power and greatness, that we may live in praise and awe each day.

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

We give thanks, everlasting Father, for your servants who have departed this life in faith and now share the joys of your heavenly kingdom. We humbly ask that, with them, we may live in Christ and die in him, and at the last awaken in his likeness in the resurrection to life everlasting.

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

## **OFFERING**

## **WE PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts! C We lift them up to the Lord!

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**P. 113**

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

## **THE CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C Hosanna in the highest!

P God is the Lord; He has shined his light upon us.

C Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever.

## **CLOSING SONG: "Prepare the Royal Highway"**

**LBW 26**

P May God be merciful to us and bless us, as we enter this holy week.

C May God be merciful to us and bless us.

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

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

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

**Pianist:** Nancy Plote

**Hosts:** Dan & Janelle Pahnke

**Attendance Last Saturday,** 3/25: 12

**Lenten Service, 3/29:** 23

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

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

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

**Offering Counters:** Jean Bauer & Mary Loomis

**Attendance Sunday,** 3/26: 44

### **BIRTHDAYS!**

Christine Suhr 4/4

Dianna Wittwer 4/4

Austin Sunderlage 4/4

Debi Hetland 4/10

James Hetland 4/11

Connie Worden 4/13

### **ANNIVERSARIES!**

Marvin & Wanda Bernhardt 4/8/1956

James & Mary Loomis 4/8/1983

Lenny & Sue Peterson 4/10/1976

### **EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN**

Order your Easter Memorial Garden Lily today. Only 10 plants are available for purchase. Lilies are \$11 each. Order forms are in the narthex. Place the order form and payment into an envelope, then place it into the offering plate or on Dianna's desk.

### **HOLY WEEK PRAYER VIGIL BEGINS AFTER GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

Many half-hour time slots are still left offering you private time in the sanctuary for prayer and reflection. Devotional materials will be provided. Sign up in the narthex at the Prayer Vigil cross to reserve your time slot. Note: There is no Saturday service April 8 to accommodate the Prayer Vigil – we encourage you to participate.



### **EASTER BREAKFAST – PLEASE RSVP!**

Easter Breakfast will be at 8am, between the two Easter services - 7am Sunrise and 9:30am Festival. To help us prepare for the breakfast, please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



I spoke with Debi Hetland! She asked that I share a "Thank you" to all who prayed, thought of and sent cards to her during her recent health issue. Debi had a miracle happen. Her brain surgeon took one more CAT scan before surgery, returned with a big smile and shared that she wouldn't be needing surgery. She is the 4<sup>th</sup> in the country to have the body heal itself. Although we know who was in control. Thank you Lord, for sharing this miracle with Debi!

## 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 know that you are interested.



### **BLACK FRIENDSHIP PEW BOOKLET**

Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down your pew or share with those sitting around you. Place this form in the offering plate when it is passed.

### **LESSONS FOR NEXT WEEK:**

*Easter Sunrise:* Exodus 14:10-15:1; Psalm 118:15-29;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

*Easter Day:* Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 16; Colossians 3:1-4;  
Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday 4/2: Join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee after the service!  
Adult Forum, 10:30am.

Tuesday 4/4: Food Pantry set-up, 9:30-11am; dist. 12-2pm.

Thursday 4/6: Food Truck Delivery, 7:30am Lydia Bible Study, 1pm  
Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 7pm.

Friday 4/7: Good Friday Service, 7pm. Prayer Vigil will begin after  
the service and will conclude on Saturday at 3pm.

Saturday 4/8: NO Worship Service.

Sunday 4/9: Easter Sunrise Service, 7am; Breakfast, 8am;  
Easter Festival Communion Service, 9:30am.

### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- Ben Blobaum & family as he prays for his 1<sup>st</sup> call to a church and to become ordained.
- Don Peterson, Louise Hoffman's brother has been ill.
- Eddie Young, Charmaine Massey's sons heart procedure went well, however, Dr's have found something else.
- Pastor Ian Griffith, LCMC pastor serving Zion Lutheran Church in La Moille, Illinois. He has had two surgeries to remove a cancerous lump from his jaw. He will hopefully be in rehab soon.
- Jason Gorski's cancer isn't responding to the new chemo medication. Jason is 42 years old, married with two children.
- Pray for 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.
- The unrest of the shooting in TN.
- Our church and its activities, and all Christian churches.
- 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.